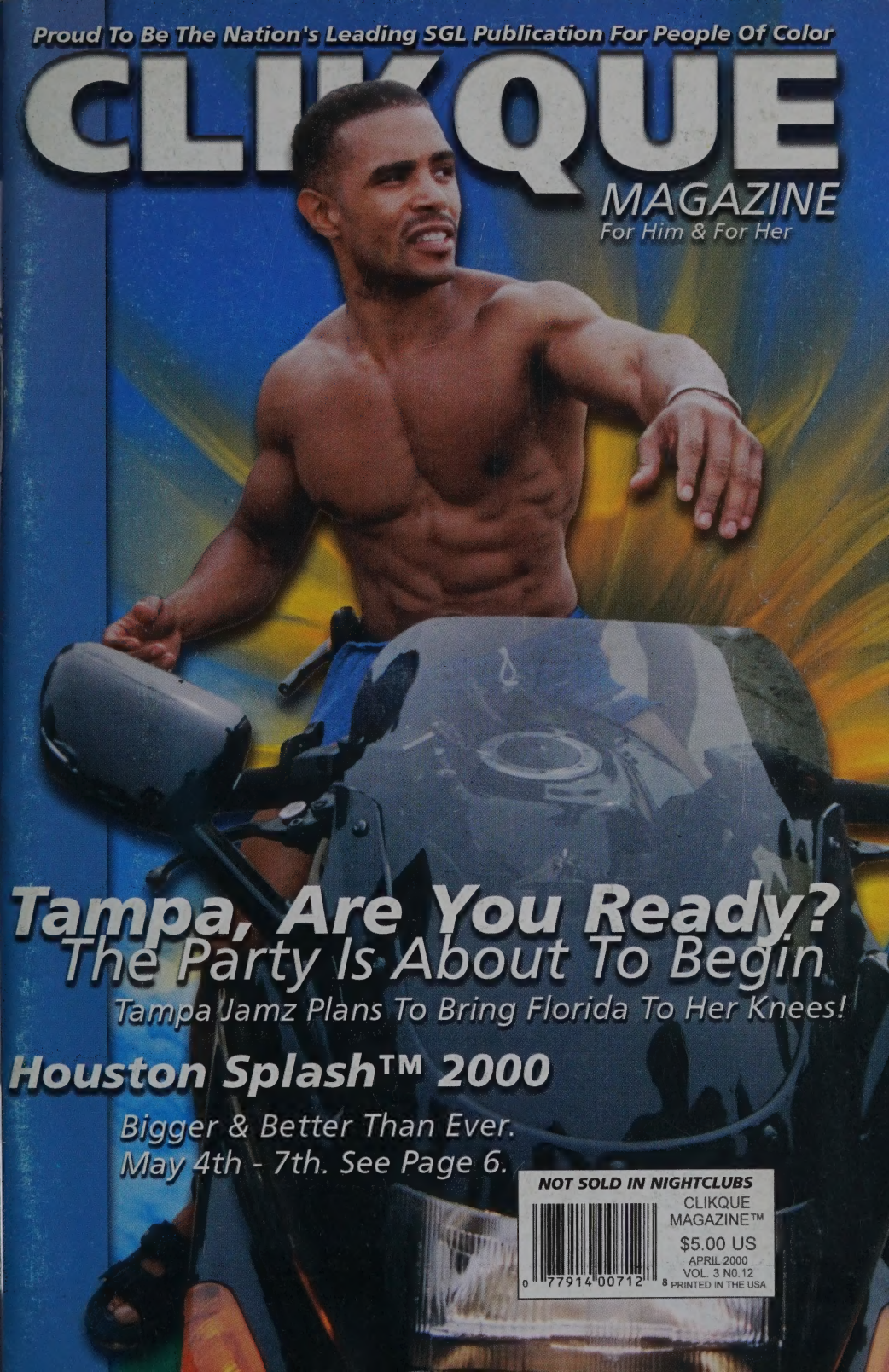
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May 4th - 7th. See Page 6.
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APRIL 2000
VOL. 3 NO.12
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HOUSTONSPLASH

Thursday - May 4, 2000

"The Engagement" 3rd Annual Strip Down -N- HTown Par
Place: Incognito The Club **Time:** 9:00pm - 4:00am
Come see as the country's finest strippers battle for cash prizes totaling $ and the title of Stripper of the Year. Hosted by the Atlanta's own Dominique Rashad, with music provided by DJ - Tony Powell. Contest is not limited to professionals only so anyone interested please call 713.237.9431 for more information.

Friday - May 5, 2000

SplashDown "2000"
Place: Holiday Inn **Time:** 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Why pay to get into the J.W. Marriott when you can get in the Holiday Inn free. What else could you ask for beside Free Admissio and Hors d' oeuvres along with a chance to meet and greet our visiting friends from coast to coast.

"The Rehearsal" Kick - Off Party
Place: Incognito The Club **Time:** 10:00pm - 4:00am
The patio features some of the hottest male and female dancers in the country along with a Fabulous show hosted by "Cookie LaCook" with A Crème De La Femme Show featuring: Tommie Ross, Niesha Dupree, Big Yo, Alicia Kelly, Chanel Nicole, Nicole Dupree, Ruby, Tiffany Brooks, and others.

Saturday - May 6, 2000

Operation Mall Take Over
Place: Galleria Mall **Time:** 11:00am - 3:00pm
Shop to you drop and show your PRIDE. Shuttles will be provided from the area hotels to the Galleria Shopping Center.

"The Reception"
Place: SKYBAR **Time:** 4:00pm - 8:00pm
Houston Splash's first annual event for the 21+ crowd to be held a Scott Gertner's SKYBAR in the Penthouse with music provided by Houston's own DJ Mookie.

"Bachelor Party"
Place: The Hangar **Time:** 10:00pm - 4:00am?
What do you get when you mix 3 Queens of Comedy, 2 rooms of music and 5,000 Men? One Hell of a "Bachelor Party!" Representin the Dirty South, the lovely talented Sophia McIntosh. Coming to yo from the East Coast, the hilarious Harmonica Sunbeam. Making her first appearance at Houston Splash the one, the only, THEA VIDAL. And of course, no Bachelor Party would be complete without some the nations finest Exotic Dancers for your tipping enjoyment. Show time will begin at 11:00pm sharp. If comedy doesn't tickle your fancy, enjoy the sounds of DJ - Cedrick, DJ - Blake, DJ - 008, DJ - Apples, DJ - Tony pumping Deep House, Hip-Hop, R&B and that unforgettable Southern Bounce!!

"Bachelorette Party"
Place: Incognito The Club
Time: 10:00pm - 4:00am
Your host and emcee Ms. Cookie LaCook along with a Flawless Cabaret starring Jasmine Bonet, Terry Lynn Fox, Allegra, Big Yo, Chicago, Hot Boys, Tru, Treystone, Alley Cat & Goodjoint, Big Sexy, Lady Sophia, and the Dallas and New Orleans crew. Dress to Impre

Sunday - May 7, 2000

Houston Splash "2000" Beach Party
Time: 10:00am - 6:00pm **Place:** Stewart Beach in Galveston
(Just follow I-45 South until you hit water)

"The Wedding" Southern Diva/Stripper Extravaganza Party
Place: Incognito The Club **Time:** 3:00pm - 4:00am
Come witness a marriage that has lasted the test of time with your emcee Cookie LaCook and Chicago's own "Heavy Diva" Otis Mack along with the countries best Male/Female Performers. But why have one wedding when you can have two, "Who will be crowned Mr. & Mrs. Hot BODY 2000!!! (Best Male, Female and Female Impersonator) Show time will begin at 9:00pm sharp! Special guests Dirty Sally, Leah Halston, Tommie Ross, Jasmine Bonet, Neisha Dupree, Alphonse Dupree, Tim Bohart, Akedrain Adams, Tevin St. James, Nicole Dupree, Alicia Kelly, Sophia McIntosh, Dominique Rashad. The patio will be open for your dancing enjoyment.

****For those of you who chose not to have fun in the sun in Galveston and prefer to stay in Houston. Incognito the Club will be open and offering free admission from 3:00pm - 6:00pm However if you leave you must pay to re-enter anytime after 6:00pm. ****

Monday - May 8, 2000

"The Honeymoon"
Place: Incognito The Club **Time:** 10:00pm - 3:00am
Featuring The Male and Female Hot Body Revue, hosted by Cookie LaCook with special guest Randy Rochelle

Houston Splash VIP Passes are only $60 and are going quick, so get your pass before it's too late. VIP passes may be purchased at Incognito the Club for more information contact 713.237.9431. Or visit us at www.houstonsplash.com for more details. Otherwise we will see you in the lines

WWW.HOUSTONSPLASH.COM

Directions/Locations:

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
6800 South Main Houston, Texas 77030 (713) 528-7744

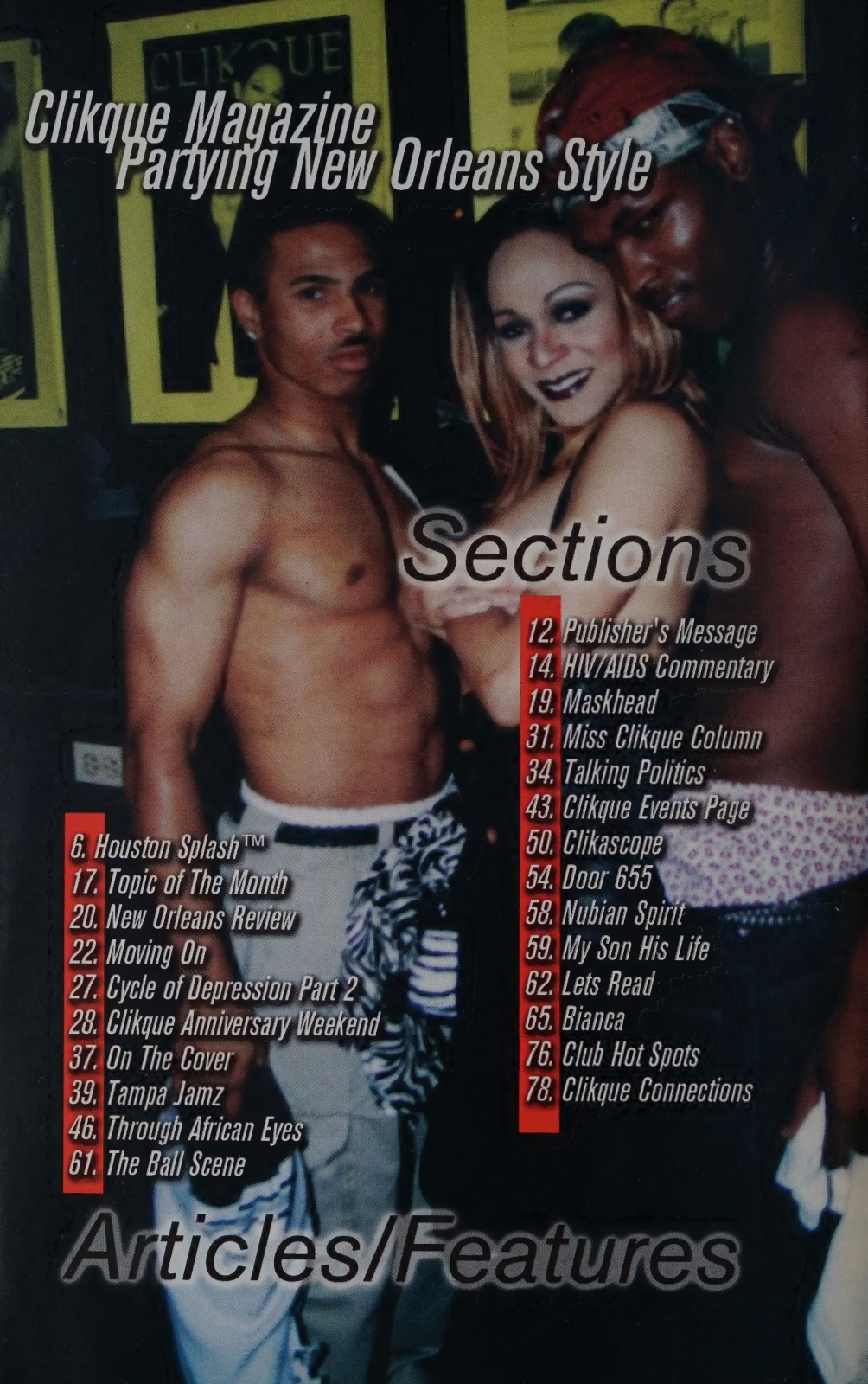
Incognito The Club
2524 McKinney St. Houston, Texas 77003 (713) 237-9431
From Holiday Inn: Exit the Holiday Inn onto Main Street and make the U-Turn at Holcombe, so that you are now headed toward Downtown Houston. Continue down Main Street, pass Wendy's and The Bus Station making a right on McKinney St. Stay in your right lane pass the George R. Bown Convention Center veering to the right still on McKinney St. Incognito the club is located at 2524 McKinney, 5 blocks after you pass the Convention Center.

The SkyBar
3400 Montrose Blvd. Houston, Texas 77003 (713) 237-9431
From Holiday Inn: Exit the Holiday Inn onto Main Street and make the U-Turn at Holcombe, so that you are now headed toward Downtown Houston in your far left lane. Continue on Main St. until you approach the Water Fountain veering to your left onto Montrose Blvd. Continue down Montrose Blvd, 5 traffic lights to Hawthorne making a right turn on Hawthrone, proceed into the parking garage on your left at 3400 Montrose Blvd to the Skybar.

The Hangar
1004 Palmer Houston, Texas 77003 (713) 237-9431
Follow same directions above continuing pass Incognito the Club on McKinney making a right turn on Polk. The Hangar is located 2 to 3 blocks on your left hand side on the corner of Roberts and Polk.

Galleria
From Holiday Inn: Exit the Holiday Inn onto Main Street and make the U-Turn at Holcombe, so that you are now headed toward Downtown Houston. Continue down Main Street, until you approach Blodgett which is the cross street for Wendy's and Day's Inn. Make a left turn onto US 59 South then to 610 North exiting at the Westheimer exit. Make a left turn at the light under the freeway and the Galleria Mall is located on your left.

Galveston Beach
From Holiday Inn: Exit the Holiday Inn making a right onto Main Street continuing straight down Main (No U Turn) until you get to 610 Freeway. Make a left turn onto 610 East on the Freeway. Continue on 610 until you approach Interstate 45 South. Continue on I -45 South until you hit water and see Stewart Beach.



Clikque Magazine
Partying New Orleans Style

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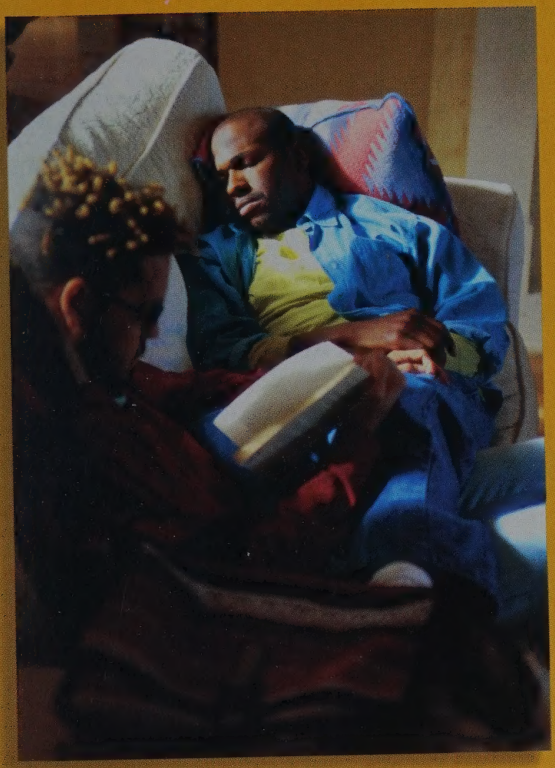

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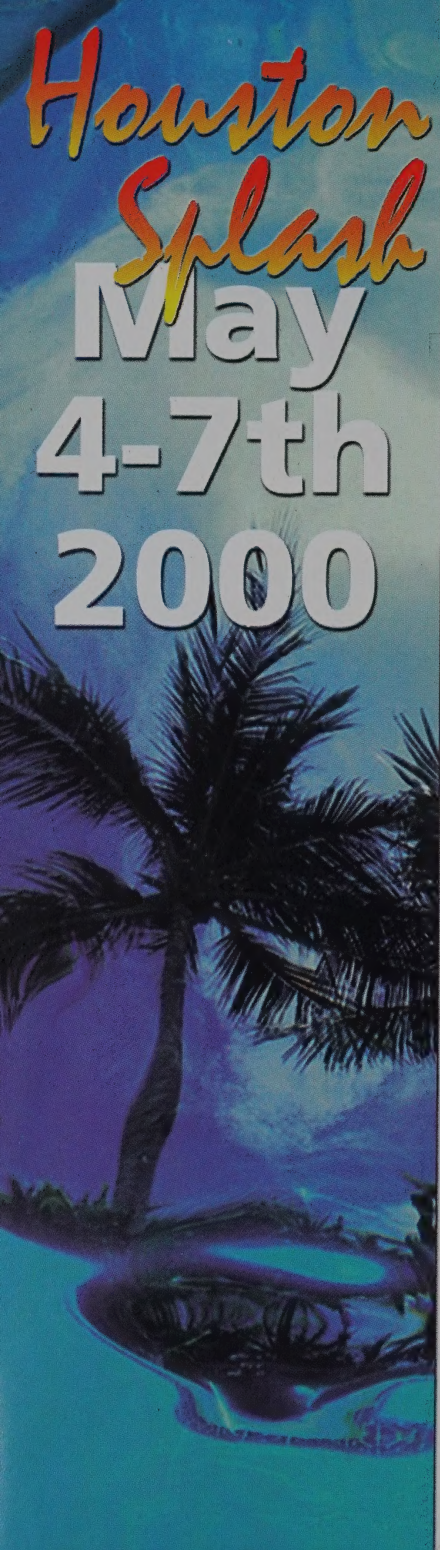


Scoring a Perfect 10:

Houston Splash & Unity Pride Splash 2000

By: Darryl!

If you ever watched Olympic divers making their attempt to win the Gold Medal by trying to make the smoothest entry, with the graceful form, and the slightest splash you would understand why **Houston Splash™** is winning Gold in the hearts of Texans and fellow party seekers around the country. Although Houston Splash has been going on for decades it's still a fresh entry into the prime time of the Black party circuit. Over the past few years **Houston Splash™** has grown into a magnificent explosion of food, fun, fashion, and folks! This year will be no exception as the sponsors of Houston Splash bring you the greatest in party events known to Texas and the creators of **Unity Pride Splash 2000** bring you the most sun-tastic of Pride parties and functions designed to tantalize your senses and wet your wild spot while supporting one of the South's powerful AIDS service organizations, **Project Caesar & The AIDS Foundation.** And as a special treat **Clikque Magazine** will also host its annual anniversary pool party on Saturday in Houston.

Houston Splash, began as a first Sunday in May Summer "splash" party. Texans, and friends, could be found sunin' and funin' themselves into a frenzy at Galveston Beach. Over the years the African American community became more and more involved and eventually the party evolved into the largest Black gathering of gay, lesbian, transgender, bi-sexual, and same gender loving on the hot sands of Galveston Beach. Coining the phrase "Houston Splash" the original promoters set in motion a tradition of fun and entertainment serving fantasy and excitement bigger than Disney or Six Flaggs.

Because Texas is known for "bigger", this years promoters, although offering separate events promise to be bigger and better. Derek Miles of In-Cognito, the Club, as the official hosts of "Houston Splash" vow to bring splashers the legendary events- sights and sounds that has made the event known world wide. This year Miles and supporters will produce "The Big Wedding" - Texas Style. Join them as they present a marriage of fun and freedom as only Houston Splash can do.Beginning with the Engagement (3rd annual Strip Down-N-Htown party), The Rehearsal (Houston Splash Kick-off party), The Reception (@ SKYBAR) to the Bachelor (@ The Hanger) and Bachelorette (@ In-Cognito) parties, Beach Party (Sunday @ Stewart Beach), culminating with the Wedding (Southern Diva/Stripper Extravaganza Party) and the Honeymoon.

While you get your wedding fever on, the first Unity Pride Splash celebration will make Houston the Hottest spot in the New Millennium. Bruce Johnson and the UPS2000 crew are promoting the next wave in Pride festivals "we are a people's event- 1 Love, 1 Nation." Its about all nations of people coming together for a big splash! Proceeds from selected events from this festival will go to support Project caesar & The AIDS Foundation. The Unity Pride Splash 2000 promoters are hosting events that are designed to compliment Houston Splash events by augmenting the weekend and offer splashers more opportunities to enjoy Big Texas Hospitality and the Big Texas Seascape.

Special offerings from Rascals include: Thursday night's National Talent Search ($300.00 prize)-register by 10:30 pm, Friday's hot bodies contest for male strippers (300.00 prize), Saturday Hosting the after party for UPS2000, and Sunday The Rascal's Untouchables and special guests.

With all this going on it's easy to see why **Houston Splash™ and Unity Pride Splash 2000** will be the biggest, best, and hottest event to start your summer off. Houston Splash and Unity Pride Splash 2000 hope that you will be their honored guests for this years festivities. It won't be a party/festival without you!

Oh, yeah, don't forget to join Clikque Magazine as it joins intothe festivities in Houston with it's own Anniversary Pool Party- in the city where it all began. Clikque's Anniversary Pool party will be hosted at the Sheraton Houston- Brookhollow Hotel. Hang with us and register to win $1000.00 in cash and accommodations at DC Black Pride, Memorial Day Weekend.

This year, don't just hear about it...

....experience it!

Splash 2000

Houston, Tx.
May 4th-7th

$64.00
Per Night
Single or Double
Occupancy
Thur.-Sun.

Sheraton Houston
Brookhollow Hotel
713-688-0100 or 800-688-3000
3000 North Loop West • Houston, TX
Ask For The "Clikque Rate of $64/night

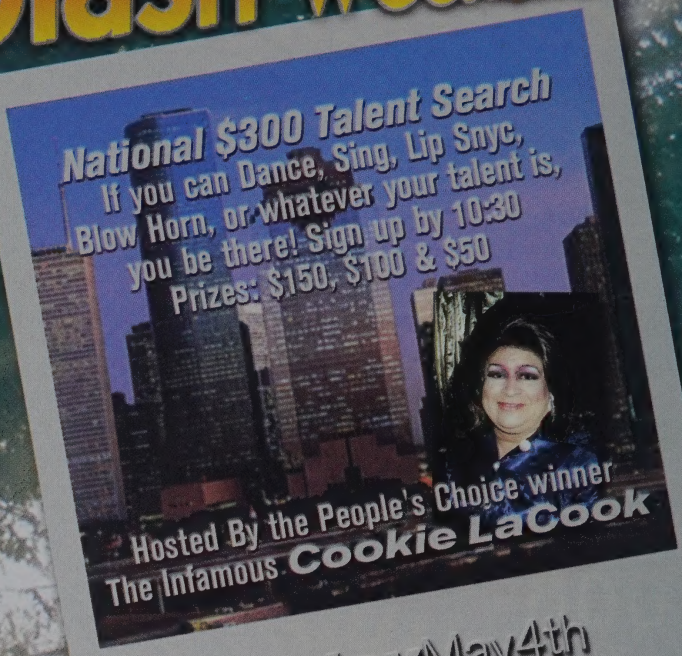
Stay Where The Action Will Be...
....And Qualify To Win $1000 CASH and Accommodations @ Washington DC Pride

Saturday
May 6th
2-8PM

Clikque's Anniversary Pool Party

Music • Food • Drinks • Body Contests • Model Search • Authors
Poetry • Trivia Games • Comedy By Sophia McIntosh & Much More!

Splash Weekend At Rascals


National $300 Talent Search
If you can Dance, Sing, Lip Snyc,
Blow Horn, or whatever your talent is,
you be there! Sign up by 10:30
Prizes: $150, $100 & $50
Hosted By the People's Choice winner
The Infamous Cookie LaCook

Thursday May 4th

Male Strip Contest
$300 in cash if you have a sexy body and
want to staruit your stuff, look no further and
come staruit for us. Sign up by 10:30
Prizes: $150, $100 & $50
Hosted by the God Father of Texas;
Grover Fortenberry
Official after party for Unity Pride 2000

Friday May 5th

RASCALS

713-942-CLUB

1318 Westheimer Houston, Texas 77006

Splash Weekend At Rascals

The Official After The Park Party
For Unity Pride Splash 2000
No Shows, No Shows, No Shows Tonight
Dance, Dance, Dance All Night
Now Tilt Your Back & Swing With 3 DJs
And 2 Dance Floors Plus Houston's Hottest
Male & Female Dancers - Doors Open 10PM

Saturday May 6th

Splash Down 2000
It's Aint Over Til It's Over!
Join The Rascal Untouchables As They
Bring A Little Paris Frantz To Texas.
It Aint Over Till Paris Does Her Thing!
Showtime 10:30PM
Well see yall next year, come back now here

Sunday May 7th

RASCALS

713-942-CLUB

1318 Westheimer Houston, Texas 77006

Official Host Hotel & Sponsor For Unity Pride Splash 2000

1st Year Splash Celebration

$80.00
Per Night
Up to 4 Per Room
(That's only
$20/person)

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Everyone All Over The Country Plans to attend the Rock-R-Ranch in Houston, Tx.
For hotel reservations please **ask for Splash 2000 Rates** when you call

713-960-0111 or 800-613-3982

Hosted By Unity Pride, TK&K and Shash Bad Girl Entertainment. Featuring Lady PT (Dallas) and Ruby Scott (Dallas)

The Official Welcome Party For Unity Splash 2000 Featuring Reception Party May 5th 6PM-11PM

MC Sophia McIntosh

Flawless Oz, Chanel Nicole, GroverFortenberry, Ruby Scott, Remmington Ross, Raquel Lord, & Miss Money

UNITY PRIDE SPLASH 2000

When you're comfortable you can do anything.

May 5-7 Splash 2000

UNITY PRIDE SPLASH 2000

FRIDAY - May 5th - 6-11 pm

THE OFFICIAL WELCOME PARTY at MARRIOTT GALLERIA
1750 West Loop South - (713) 624-1532

HOT MALE DANCERS
HOT FEMALE DANCERS

GLASS PALACE BALLROOM - 1000+ People Attending!
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Free Shuttle to Galleria Mall - Only Blocks Away!

ENTERTAINMENT BY:

Sophia McIntosh - Atlanta
Flawless OZ - Houston
Grover Fontenberry - Houston
Remington Ross - Houston
Racquel Lord - Atlanta
Miss Money - Houston
Miss Ruby Scott - Dallas

FREE Hor D'oeuvres

GET YOUR V.I.P. PASSES NOW! LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

DON'T MISS THE LARGEST WELCOME PARTY EVER!

SATURDAY - May 6th - 11am - 8pm

FREE FOOD! FREE BEER!
11am - 2 pm

Walk For Me
Dance For Me
Strut For Me
Contest "Prizes"
Host: House of Love
&
The Lords of London

"DON'T BE LEFT AT YOUR HOTEL"
Follow the Boyz Where the Action Will Be!

ENTERTAINMENT, FREE FOOD, FREE BEER, MALE DANCERS, FEMALE DANCERS, CARNIVAL GAMES

ENTERTAINMENT brought to you by the Country's Hottest MC's:

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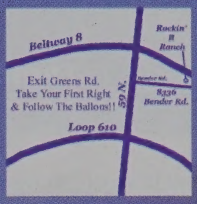
Flawless OZ - Houston
Lady Shumu - Houston
tk2k Productions - Houston
Grover Fortenberry - Houston
Miss Ruby Scott - Dallas
Nicole - Dallas
Otis Mack - Chicago
Mark Goebel - Houston

ROCKIN' R RANCH
8336 Bender



SUNDAY - May 7th - 7pm - 2am

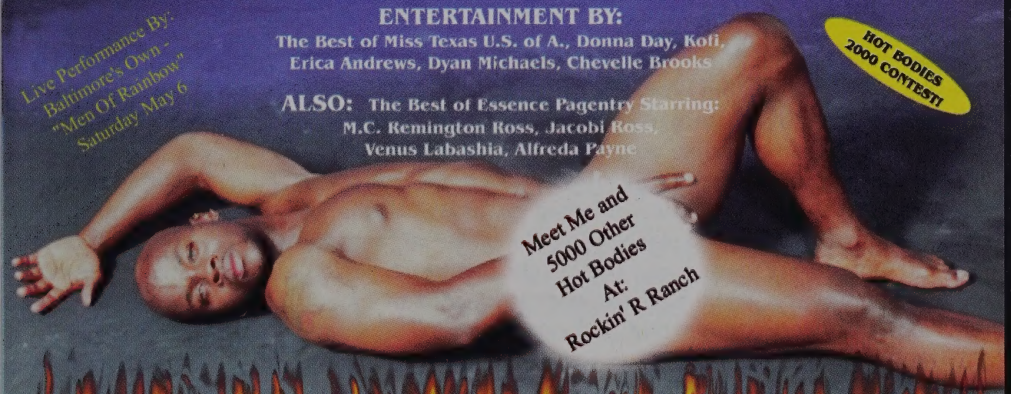
THE OFFICIAL AFTER BEACH X-PLOSION @ RICH'S of HOUSTON

ENTERTAINMENT BY:
The Best of Miss Texas U.S. of A., Donna Day, Kofi, Erica Andrews, Dyan Michaels, Chevelle Brooks

ALSO: The Best of Essence Pagentry Starring:
M.C. Remington Ross, Jacobi Ross, Venus Labashia, Alfreda Payne

HOT BODIES 2000 CONTEST!

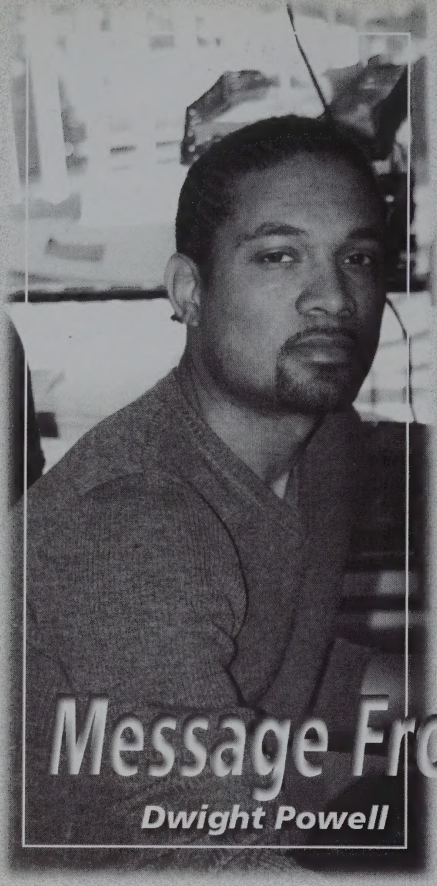
Live Performance By: Baltimore's Own - "Men Of Rainbow" Saturday May 6



Houston's Hottest Park Event Ever!

1-888-526-0161 or www.unity-pride-splash2000.com

"One Love, One Nation, All Colors Coming Together for Splash"



Be the First One to Act Loving or Reach Out

From Don't Sweat The Small Stuff

So many of us hold on to little resentments that may have stemmed from an argument, a misunderstanding, the way we were raised, or some other painful event. Stubbornly, we wait for someone else to reach out to us—believing this is the only way we can forgive or rekindle a friendship or family relationship.

An acquaintance of mine, whose health isn't very good, recently told me that she hasn't spoken to her son in almost three years. "Why not?" I asked. She said that she and her son had had a disagreement about his wife and that she wouldn't speak to him again unless he called first. When I suggested that she be the one to reach out, she resisted initially and said, "I can't do that. He's the one who should apologize." She was literally willing to die before reaching out to her only son. After a little gentle encouragement, however, she did decide to be the first one to reach out. To her amazement, her son was grateful for her willingness to call and offered an apology of his own. As

is usually the case when someone takes the chance and reaches out, everyone wins.

Whenever we hold on to our anger, we turn "small stuff" into really "big stuff" in our minds. We start to believe that our positions are more important than our happiness. They are not. If you want to be a more peaceful person you must understand that being right is almost never more important than allowing yourself to be happy. The way to be happy is to let go, and reach out. Let other people be right. This doesn't mean that you're wrong. Everything will be fine. You'll experience the peace of letting go, as well as the joy of letting others be right. You'll also notice that, as you reach out and let others be "right," they will become less defensive and more loving toward you. They might even reach back. But, if for some reason they don't, that's okay too. You'll have the inner satisfaction of knowing that you have done your part to create a more loving world, and certainly you'll be more peaceful yourself.

Looking Forward To Seeing You In Houston At Our Anniversary Pool Party May 6th @ The Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel

PRIDE MEDICAL

Our team grows...

From left: Charles Dickey, MSW, LCSW, Kimball A. Johnson, MD, Lee R. Anisman, MD, (seated), Gail Parker, RN, MN, CFNP and David H. Morris, MD.

to serve you even better

Pride medical welcomes Kimball Johnson and David Morris to our practice family. Dr. Johnson specializes in Internal Medicine with specific emphasis on the treatment of HIV disease and women's health issues. Dr. Morris' area of expertise is family practice with special interest in HIV medicine.

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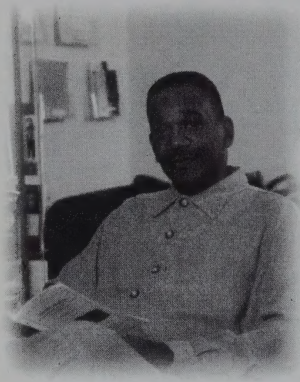
HIV/AIDS COMMENTARY

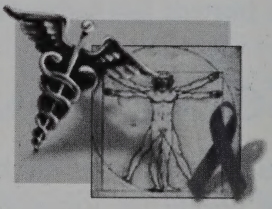
Clikque Magazine

by Don Sneed



Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: March 23, 2000; reporting from the Southwestern Front: Dallas, Texas. You may wonder why I use the old "dateline" method of opening my column. This was a method used by print reporters during the first and second World Wars. I am a print reporter and again we find ourselves engaged in a deadly vicious World War. This time it is not the enemy-human it is the enemy-virus. As of 1998 there has been a cumulative total of 13.9 million deaths caused by the AIDS virus worldwide. In 1998 there were 2.5 million deaths caused by the AIDS virus. Globally, there are an estimated 33.4 million people living with HIV as of 1998. In the United States, by June of 1998, there were a reported 401,028 deaths due to AIDS. In that same year there were a cumulative total of 325,000 African Americans living with HIV disease. It is estimated that 1 in 50 African American men are infected with HIV. From a global perspective the majority of people dying from AIDS and living with HIV are of African descent. It is my personal fear and will be an African American tragedy that when the statistics are released, in June by the CDC, the majority of people in the United States living with HIV/AIDS and dying from the disease will be of African descent. We are involved in a life and death struggle. For Black people this is the Mother of All Wars. Sadly, this is a war that we are not winning. Unfortunately, on many of our battlefronts, our soldiers are barely holding the line and some fronts are in virtual collapse.



On the Southwestern front we are under heavy siege by the virus. At Renaissance III we have seen our client caseload explode over the last year. We had estimated adding approximately 60 new clients during the last year; three times that many came to our doors seeking help to stay alive. We are under siege. As we embark upon a testing campaign of young MSM, with very limited resources, we are finding an infection rate of approximately 30%. We are under siege. The majority of our new clients arrive with a CD4 count of 250 or less. We are under siege. Since November of 1999 there has been an astounding increase in the number of our clients dying from AIDS. We are under siege. We have seen a significant increase in the number of young African American men diagnosed with HIV infection (25 and under). We are under siege. The majority of the deaths have been in men between the ages of 25 and 35. We are under siege!

On the Southwestern front despite these vicious and unrelenting attacks by the enemy-virus we are determined to hold the line. We shall persevere. We refuse to retreat and we will not give one inch of ground unto the enemy because of fear or failure to do all within our power and resources. We have friends and loved ones of the fallen and falling signing up for duty. We are preparing a counter-attack and pray to have it underway by mid-summer. As a people, African Americans have faced many and great enemies while on these shores. We have met and fought valiantly against them all. However, this is the greatest and most powerful foe that we have ever faced. Let us not dance, party, play and sex our way to extinction.

For those of you who are HIV positive I caution against the use of drugs, alcohol, isolation, fear, shame and guilt. Many of our clients who have succumbed to the enemy-virus over the last six months have had one or more of those things in common. Eighty percent of them were on anti-retroviral medications. Anti-retroviral medications, alone, will not keep us alive. If we envelop ourselves in fear, guilt, and shame then proceed to isolate, as we consume ever increasing amounts of intoxicants, we set ourselves up for anti-retroviral drug failure. I have seen the results of this strategy: premature death. AIDS is a vicious and cunning enemy. You cannot fight it in a retreat mode. The enemy-virus must be faced and fought in the open without fear, guilt, shame, in isolation or while loaded to the gills off of our favorite intoxicants. A loaded soldier is a soon to be a dead soldier. We are in a war and we are under siege.

As in all wars there will be casualties. I submit that there have been too many casualties and we must stem this hemorrhaging. In America, this is a disease, primarily, of African American men. We have not responded as men do when they are collectively attacked. I do not expect all of us to do what I do. But I do expect all of us to do what is within our power and resources to do. If you have not given to an AIDS organization in your community, fighting for your life, stop what you are doing right now! Open up wallet or checkbook and give what you can. If you are unable to give money, give of your time and abilities. Please do something other than wait for the enemy-virus to attack you or a loved one. You can make a difference. You are under siege!

Living with a Life Threatening Illness?

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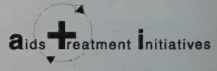
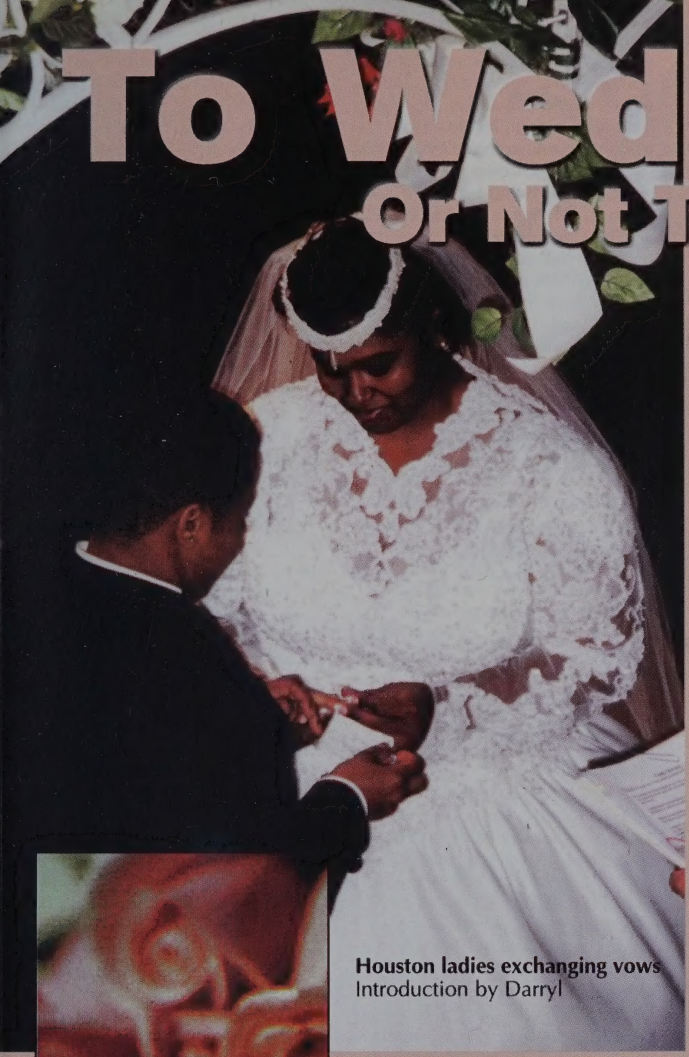


To Wed Or Not To Wed



Houston ladies exchanging vows
Introduction by Darryl

The debate on the issues of Gay marriage and domestic partnerships have been going on for many years now but thanks in part to the barrage of court challenges, and the Gay Civil Rights movement, the issues have come to the forefront of American politics, religious institutions, and public forums. It would seem, though, that the debate has been avoided, dismissed, or overlooked within the Black community. This may be true or it may be that African American's are dealing with so many other issues that the personal freedoms and legal nuances regarding marriages and partnerships are low on the list of priorities.

In retrospect we know that people of the African diaspora have been last to consider or confront many ills or issues that eventually leave them at the door of opportunity knocking after others have entered into the house of change and progress. The question for us to consider is can we afford to allow our "other" counterparts to define, debate, and decide the issues that will also impact us and in some strange way limit our access to the table where decisions are made. If we are not at the table when the menu is being prepared we can do little more than complain about the meal once it is being served.

For us the issue is not only political but personal. How much of our personal lives do we want to expose? How much controversy do we want too add to our already difficult existance as People of color and African American's in this society? On the personal side we have and do make choices to live our lives in the most powerful and productive ways we can etch out in this world. Do we want to challenge the delicate balances that have kept our estranged families marginally involved with us? Are we prepared to confront being multiple minorities and add to our lives a new "issue" that not only we, but our children, will have to confront daily? Are we really prepared to deal with the legal and sociological implications of marriage and partnership?

Politically are we prepared to be OUT, publically? It is one thing to be "assumed such" and an entirely different thing to be "exposed." Are we prepared to charge our leaders with the daunting task of fighting for

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Wed Continued From Page 17

human and civil rights (circa 1960's style) and add gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgendered issues as well. MLKing, Jr., Bishop Desmond Tutu, Barbara Jordon, and many great people have said and resaid that until we are all free...none of us are truely free. Are we prepared to carry the torch of freedom to the next level or are we content to teter on the brink of freedom and just "survive" with pseudo-liberty? Or maybe we are fine just the way we are and no other changes are needed for our total manifestation and actualization. Hummmmm...?

We will not solve the debate today but we can forward the dialogue which may prompt someone - somewhere, to act on their convictions. Here are some of your comments sent to us in response to the topic of the month for April.

Gerald L. Golden, Jr.-
I feel as though gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry one another, however, only in a civil setting. The sacrament of marraige is a religious procedure more so than legal and in the sight of GOD, it would be morally wrong for same-gender persons to exchange vows. Now, that is not to say that persons of other religious backgrounds outside of christianity should not do so, I am not versed well enough on other religions to make an assertion at this time. From a legal standpoint marraige should only be regarded as act of unity by two persons would choose to bond together, regardless of their gender. Same-gender marraiges are currently such a hot topic because only now we have persons would have proceeded with them. I am sure they're were persons who may have wanted to but couldn't, mainly due to legal restraints. For example, if my memory serves me correctly, it was once and probably still is against the law in Illinois to committ any acts of a homosexual nature whether public, or private. My thing is this, people should legally be allowed to marry whomever they choose without a lot of bureaucratic red-tape to go through.

Jhahbriel C.E. Moore-Collins, Maryland

It is funny when people speak upon gay marriages and look at you like you are crazy. This is something even today our own homosexual families do. How are straight people going to except gay marriages if our own people don't stand strong behind it, AND act upon it. This year my lover and I will be celebrating our 2nd year of marriage but our 3rd year of being together. We were married in the church here in DC and through prayer and the support of our friends and family we are making it. No relationship is perfect but, in Christ it is.
The court system may not ever grant this to be legal but, as long as we again stay strong behind our beliefs it won't matter. Only we can change the future and with the future comes change. A Positive force brings its own a positive reaction. A negative force only brings a negative counteraction.
My people stay strong in what you believe. Don't let a closed mind focus you out. And to answer the question, YES GAY MARRIAGES SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED.

Jennifer Wilford,
Houston, TX
Legalizing same gender marriages has definitely become an issue in today's society. Persons in authority see it as a disgrace to society as well as to one's religion. Personally, I am all for same gender marriages, not just because I am a gay female, but I see the situation for what it is. A person's gender should not determine the nature of love. Indeed, love has no color, but it also has no gender. Males and Females of the same sex find security and comfort in one another...something that isn't found in a heterosexual or as society says a "normal" relationship. We deserve the same rights and priviledges as heterosexual human beings. The public portrays us as some type of disease that is contaigious, when in all actuality, many of them try to be like us. We, as a black gay community, need to join together as one. We need to portray a positive image for ourselves and our younger generation and not let Ricki Lake and Jerry Springer make us out to be animals. We are humans too and we deserve to have the same priviledges as others. I am a proud gay female, I have a lovely fiance', and together 3 beautiful kids. I would never let society define me or my family. I try to portray a positive image for my family and set a good example as a Christian also. God is the only one that is fit to judge anyone, the only one to have the last say about anyone's life. God planned our lives before we were even thought of, so what makes anyone else fit to judge me?

Bryant Brazeal,
Atlanta, GA
I firmly believe that gay and lesbian committed relationships should be legally affirmed, however, I disagree with calling those unions a marriage. As an out, gay, same-gender loving black man, I believe that the legal protections afforded by marriage are more important than the simple label of 'marriage.' I think that those rights can be more readily afforded through domestic partnership legislation. The word 'marriage' carries too many religious connotations and I believe therein lies the problem with forcing the marriage issue. Marriage is both religious and civil in nature. Most religious doctrines preach the virtues of marriage, but our governments go one step further by granting legal standing to the 'partnership' that is created through the religious act. It is not the religious act of marriage that allows an opposite-sex couple to file joint tax returns, buy and inherit each others property, or receive spousal benefits from one another's employer. Those privileges are granted because

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Clikque MAGAZINE

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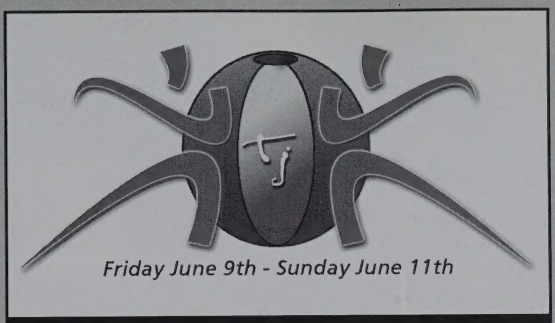

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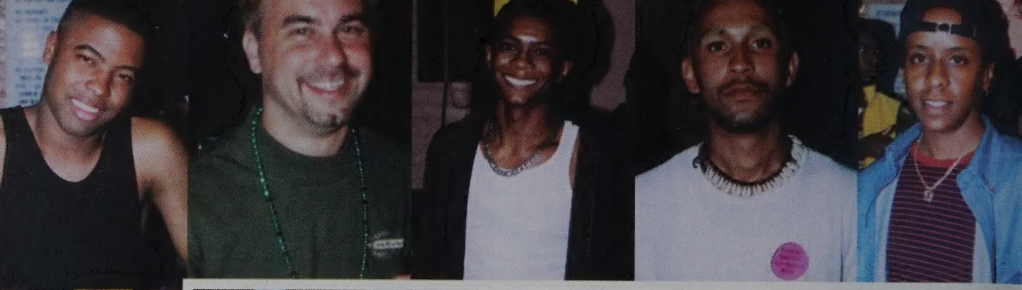
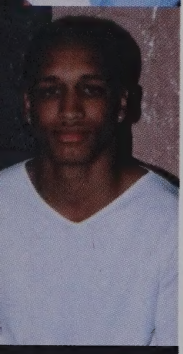
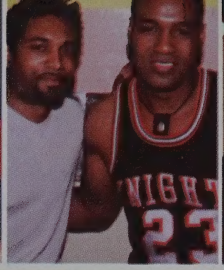
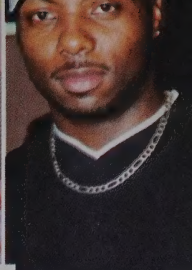




Being Mr. & Miss Clikque America Has It's Advantages Says Tim Bolhar & Teryl-Lynn Foxx

Contests Winners L-R:
Elliot Sneed - Model Search
Kreama Sherry - Best Dressed
James McGhee - Wobble Contest

Clikque Does New Orleans

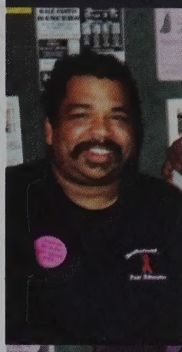
Our new family in New Orleans showed us that beauty comes with diversity. **Clikque Magazine** went to this city with intentions of promoting the magazine and supporting our Miss Clikque in her hometown. We left feeling loved and with renewed spirit of how beautiful our same gender loving community truly is. Not really knowing what to expect, we were overwhelmed with the congenial personalities we encountered during this trip. This event was not only a success for Clikque Magazine as a thriving African-American/Gay operated publication, but it was also a success in that it displayed love that is all too often over-looked by our community. As an individual in an unfamiliar place, I was made to feel at home. This city is filled with some of the most down-to-earth people you could ever meet.

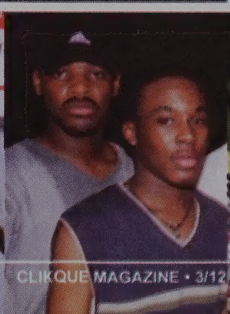
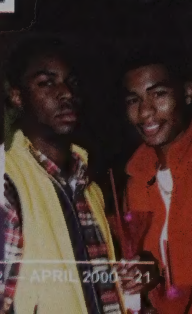
With sincere appreciation, we send out a big **THANK YOU** to all the **supporters** and **attendees** of this event. Among these supporters are **Club Wolfendales, Teryl-Lynn Foxx** (Miss Clikque America 2000), **Tim Bolhar** (Mr. Clikque America 2000), **Saria, Clint**, all contest participants and the countless people that attended our launch party from New Orleans and surrounding areas. Congratulations to our contest winners **Kreama Sherry** (Best-Dressed Spectator), **James McGhee** (Wobble Contest Winner), and **Elliott Sneed** (Model Search Winner).

This was our first visit to New Orleans , but it surely isn't our last!

—JAMES MARTIN

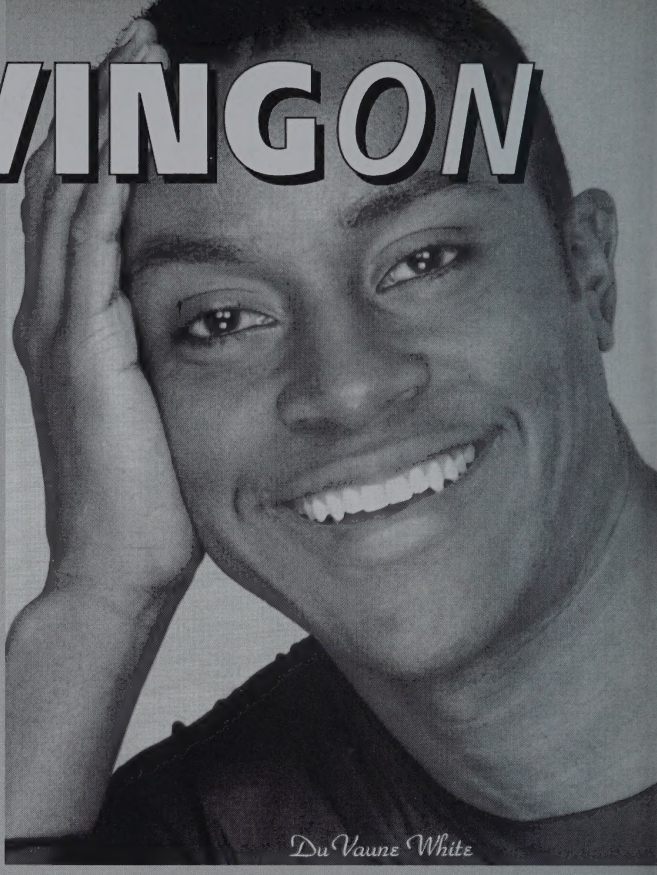
Friday March 17th @ Club Wolfendales



MOVINGON

by: DuVaune White



When is it time to move on? Having just come out of a five year relationship, I ask myself how did I let it go this far, and why did I let it go this far? Many of us want to fool ourselves into believing that love, and only love made us stay. But why do we stay in an abusive, often times volatile situation? The truth is that we do it for fear of being alone, fear of having to do that dating thing all over again, having to meet someone new, and let them in on all of our idiosyncrasies. For some, it is the fear of not being able to meet our financial obligations. We find comfort in knowing that this person with whom we stay, and commit ourselves to, already knows us: They know our weaknesses, our strengths, our likes and dislikes, and sometimes, if we're lucky the sex is just too damn good to let go.

Although I am by no means a victim of a physically abusive relationship, I was mentally abused, but mainly by myself, for allowing the situation to continue. In my eyes, my partner was, and still is, a wonderful, loving, caring, and gentle man, I can't say that about many men. Therefore, I won't engage in slanderous statements, or attacks on his character. Most people consider me to be a very strong, in your face, direct kinda guy, who knows what he wants...a guy who would never allow himself to get into a situation that wasn't good or healthy for him. But, I did! And this being my third long term relationship, T'm beginning to see a pattern, a pattern that scares the living hell out of me. However, I take comfort in knowing that I am not alone in this pattern of misguided behavior, I take discomfort in knowing that many of us allow this sort of thing to happen, sometimes repeatedly.

My biggest enemy in all of this is that ole' dreaded organ known as "The Heart". yes, my heart is my biggest enemy. I'm a sucker for tears. If you cry, somehow you steal my emotions, and hence the guilt sets in, and I believe that leaving is probably the biggest mistake I will make, the guilt and everything attached to it soon follows, and before I know it, I have forgiven all, and things are back to the way they were before.

My situation, however is somewhat unique-that's what we all say! -in the sense that this was a semi-long distance affair. You see, I'm not now, nor did I in the beginning think of this situation as a relationship. I've always considered this a "situation", but my partner felt otherwise, and often referred to this thing as a relationship, and in his eyes, I'm sure he believed it. In all honesty, and I may contradict myself here, If this brotha had lived here in Atlanta, GA, I don't think we would have lasted as long as we did. Our characters are very different, but the sex was fuckin' on, we would tear some shit up. And if we were to get together again, the same would apply. So I figured, "Hey", there's no one in the works here (although there were plenty of guys knockin)...This is perfect, or so I thought in the beginning, and so the saga begins. First, we must ask ourselves what is a relationship?. What do we desire from this relationship? What do we desire from our partners. After you have come up with suitable answers, then you must ask

yourself are you getting everything your heart desires? If the answer is "no", then ,my friend, you are not in a relationship, you are in a' thing!" And sometimes this thing beats the living crap out of you, sometimes this thing verbally abuses you, sometimes this thing doesn't have your back, when you think he/she should, and sometimes this thing doesn't give you the sexual and physical pleasure that you need to make it through a 24 hour period. And from this you start to look for other avenues of pleasures (alcohol, drugs, other sexual partners, overeating, and the list goes on). And these pleasures can ultimately wreak havoc in your ordinary, mundane life. To stay in a situation that is not healthy, is nothing short of suicide. You'll begin to lose your will to live, to create, to conquer as "The Almighty" has intended for you to do.

If you are a brotha, or a sista in a relationship (especially you brothas), and your partner is not 100% committed to pleasing you in every @#$!&' way possible, you are a chile' of abuse, and you need to Run For It Run! If yo dawg ain't givin you the booty (whole nother topic), but expects you to bend ova, and let him rip yo insides out, you need to Run For It Run! If yo girl ain't eatin' your punani, and bringing you to heightened levels of multiple orgasms, but willing to serve you da platter all the time, just pack yo shit, and git the hell outta dodge girl (stagecoach leaving at Ipm). What I'm saying is that we are not alone here, we have all been, at one time or another, in a situation where we weren't treated fairly, or equally. We've all allowed ourselves to be a victim at one time or another, and this is not a bad thing; in fact, its a very good thing, because it allows us to learn from our mistakes, enabling us to grow stronger, not weaker, and learn to accept that being alone isn't always a bad thing. Sometimes it is the most incredible thing that could happen to an individual, because this should be a time of reflection, a time to sort out your life, your finances, and al1 of your desires.

My brothas, and sistas, it's ok to check out a movie, or dinner, or take a vacation by yourself. You'll be surprised at how many doors will open for you when you travel alone. But if you are one of those people who just can't do it... Call Charter! Seriously, get into some sort of group thing, whether it be a church, or community social function, and if this don't work for you, then, by God, GET A DOG!

But when the storm has come through your neighborhood, and caused great damage to the structure of your home, you are forced to make some assessments: Do I stay and repair, or is the damage just too great? Some structures, are beyond repair. So we make the painful choice of moving on, but this is how you should treat your heart. Follow it, and when it says "move on", then it is indeed time to move on!

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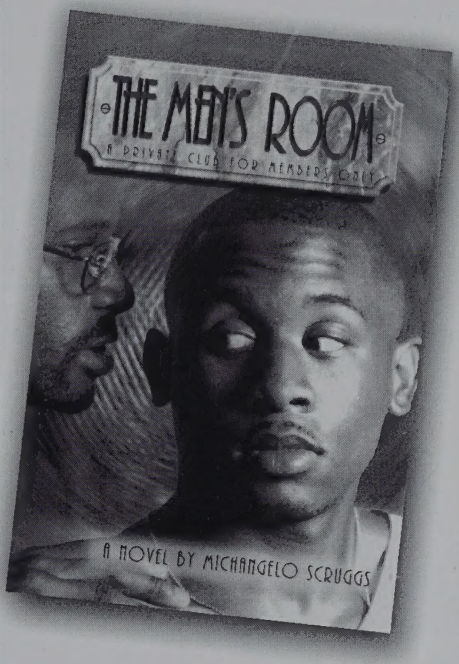

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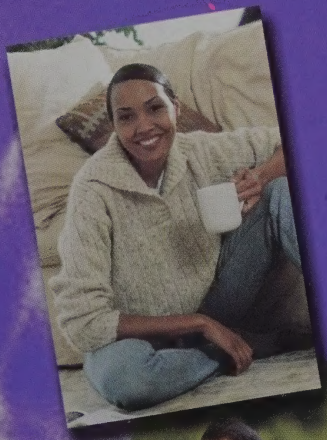

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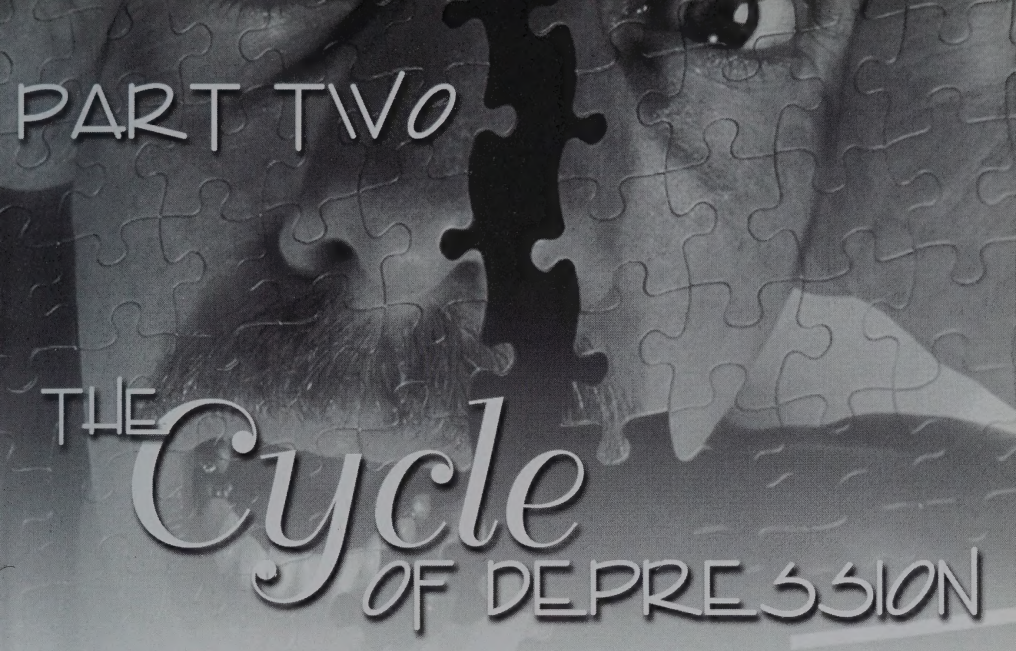

PART TWO

THE Cycle OF DEPRESSION

In my last article I wrote very candidly about my battle with depression. Since that time I have been on a journey of some sort of self-discovery. Some of the trip I am enjoying; other parts are annoying the hell out of me. After I recognized my depression, I decided that I needed some time away by myself. So I ventured off to London to visit some friends that I had not seen in a while. Everything was fine for most of the trip. I went for long walks by myself. I did some light shopping. Harrod's and Harvey Nichols were having their annual January sale (in case you are wondering I paid for everything in cash). I met up with friends and had dinner and drinks. The entire trip was just the escape that I needed until it was time for me to leave.

When I arrived at Gatwick Airport I found that my 1:00 PM flight was now a 10:00 PM departure. Initially, I seemed to be ok with this lateness. But as I sat down and began to look for things to occupy my time, it became all to clear that I was not in control of anything around me. And that is when "it" happened. My chest started to tighten, paranoia was setting in (I felt as though everyone was watching me), I could not control my breathing, the tears began to roll down my face- I was having another panic attack. The only thing that I could think to do was to call my mother. For some reason none of my calling cards were working so I had to call her collect. Of course because my decision to take this trip was last minute, no one knew where I was-least of all my parents. So when the overseas operator announced that she had a collect call from Scott, my mother was completely caught off guard. Once we established that I was not in any trouble, she began to calm me down. After about thirty minutes of consoling, I was back to my rational state. That was 3 months ago.

Today, I have been taking the Paxil (an anti-depressant) and attending therapy on a weekly basis. The medication is helping me more than I ever would have imagined. I am more focused. I have a lot more clarity with my thoughts. I have more energy. It has taken away my compulsive habits. I am not anxious about anything. Overall, I think that I am a more pleasant person. The medication has allowed me to clear all

Cycle Continues On Page 52

written by senior staff writer
Scott Bogan atlanta, ga.

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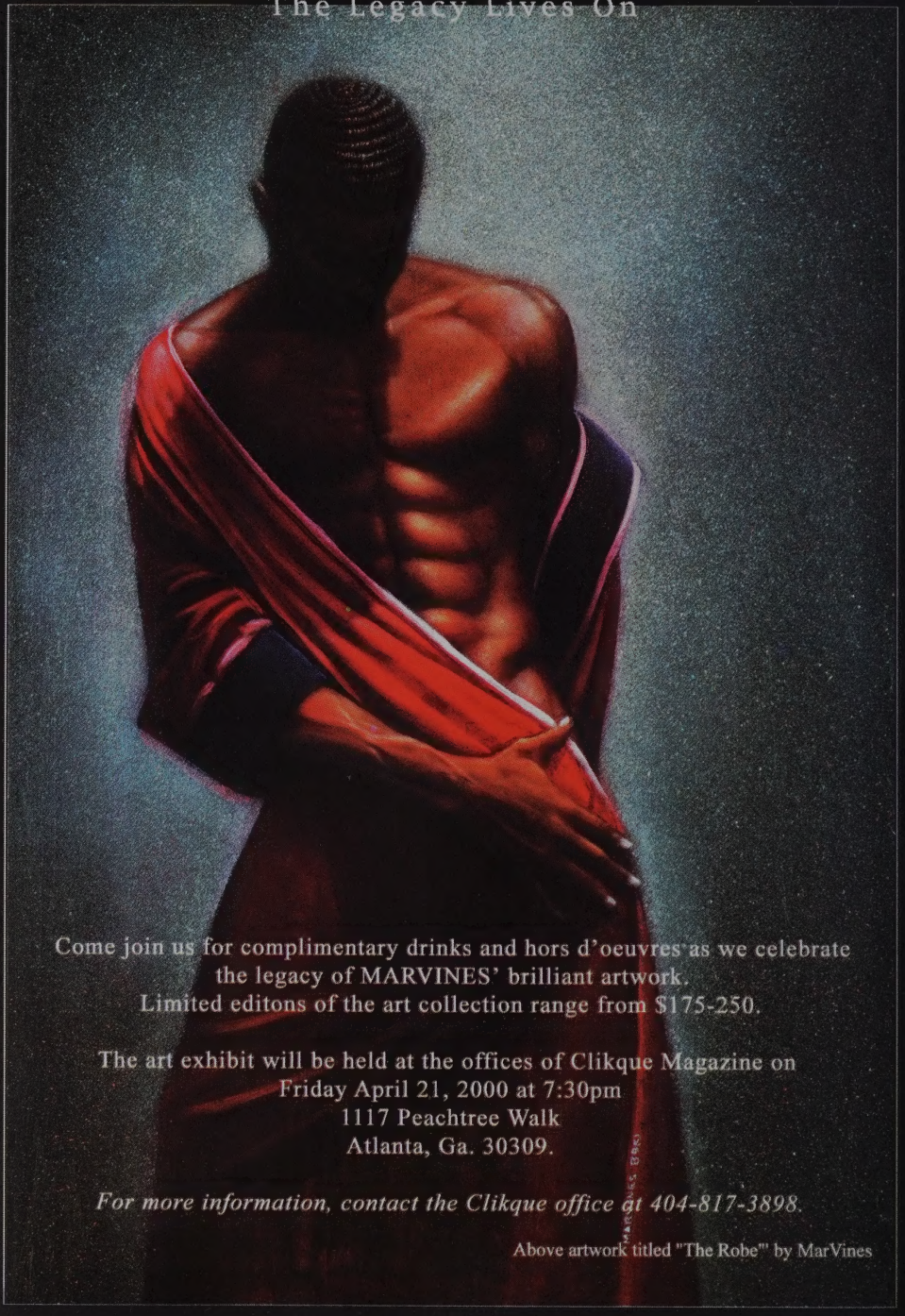

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For more information, contact the Clikque office at 404-817-3898.

Above artwork titled "The Robe"' by MarVines

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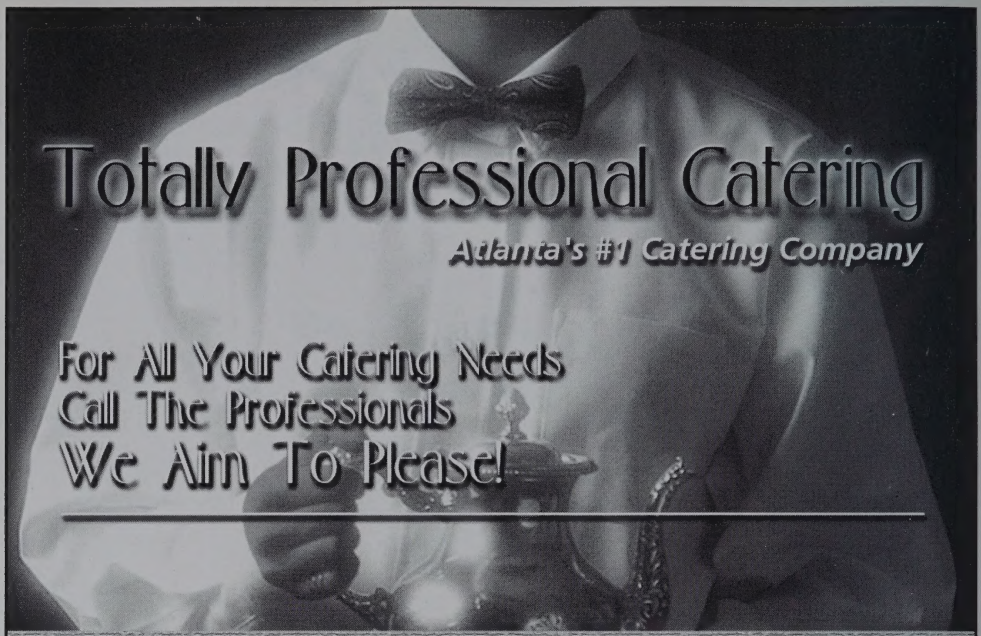

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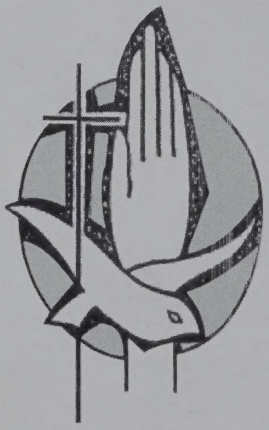

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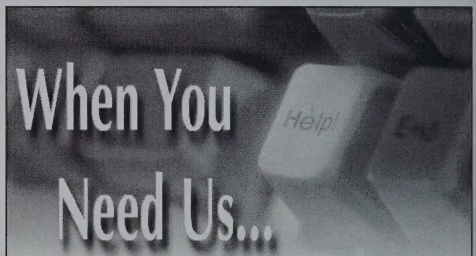

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TRANS - CENTRAL STATION

Monthly Column By Teryl-Lynn Foxx,
Miss Clikque America 2000

For many transgenders, whether transsexual or transvestitite (cross-dresser), being transgendered and enduring the scorn and ridicule of society is not just merely a whim. It is a deeply felt desire to live or dress in the clothing of the opposite sex. However, in the fear of loss of their jobs or relationships with their families, many transgenders do so in the safety of their homes in private or at club gatherings. Some men may even wear female underclothing beneath their male clothing at work (hello Missy!). Many crossdressers are heterosexual, not gay or lesbian and some are married. This puts these cross-dressers in a peculiar position not only with the heterosexual world but also with gays and lesbians and transsexuals (those persons who perceive themselves as members of the sex opposite to the one they were born).

If one were to have a conversation with a transgendered person, they would soon realize how long and painful the process has been for recognizing their particular uniqueness, accepting it and doing something about it. Their lifestories tell of the pain and questioning, hatred and prejudice we go through, the attempted suicides, disownment by families, divorces, firings from jobs, verbal and physical assaults, loss of self-esteem and self-worth. TGs do not fall into a convenient category. We're neither fish (no pun intended) nor fowl. Why would anybody go through all this merely on a whim?

For a transsexual desiring gender reassignment, it is a long process. Before there can be surgery to correct their physical sexual identity to that of their perceived gender identity, there is prolonged therapy. A therapist probes the desire for gender reassignment to ensure the reasons are real and valid. This stage frequently comes after years of anguish, starting in early childhood, when one wants to wear the clothing of the opposite sex and incurs the wrath of parents and the threat of an eternity in hell for this great "sin."

If the therapist gives approval, the candidate then undertakes a real life test, living as a member of the desired gender. This means that a male begins living and dressing as a woman and a female lives and dresses as a male—at work, with family, and in all activities. A legal name change is required, as is a change in driver's license, etc. The transgender may be discharged from his job, be divorced from their spouse and children, and disowned by parents, brothers, sisters, families, friends, and the public prejudice. If they are to achieve their surgery, they must surmount these difficulties.

During this period, the TG is taking hormone treatment to accentuate the characteristics of the desired gender. For male to female TGs, there is the expense and pain of electrolysis and/or laser treatments to eliminate body and facial hair. One really has to be dedicated to go through some 200 hours of that painful procedure. Women changing to men undergo hormone treatments to suppress their breasts and to grow beards. Hormone treatments cost upwards of one hundred dollars per month and must be continued for life.

As silly as it may sound, one of the biggest challenges becomes the restroom. That issue always comes up—What restroom do I use?. Most transgenders avoid the restroom because they are afraid of the reaction of others. There was an incident in a casino in Biloxi, Mississippi, where a TG who was living as a woman used the casino's ladies restroom. The casino security force swooped in and forcibly removed her from the casino. Can you imagine the stir she would have caused entering the men's room dressed as a woman? Recently in New Orleans, during a Mardi Gras Ball of a gay krewe, the announcement was made over the loudspeaker that "the cross-dressers" were not to use the lady's restrooms. I view that announcement as both stupid and demeaning. With individual stalls, there would be no problem—and I am definitely not interested in the least in the private parts of other females. But the misguided krewe members gave in to the hysteria and stupidity of their heterosexual guests—at the expense of the transgendered guests.

Anytime during the real life test, the therapist can halt the process and withdraw approval. Once the life test is completed, gender reassignment surgery may proceed. Once the surgery is completed, it is irreversible.

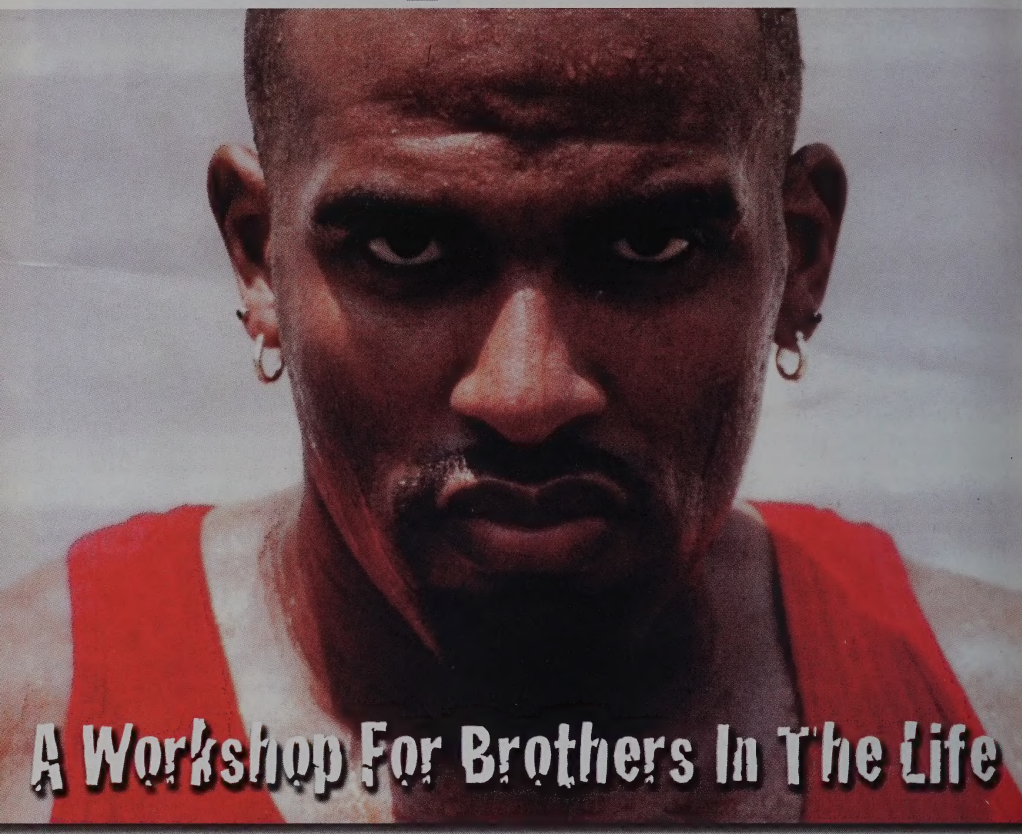
Why endure all this, the humiliation, the pain, and the expense on a whim? Clearly nobody goes through all this lightly. I believe the answer is peace of mind, the becoming of the gender of our urgings, that has told us all along this is our destiny.

Of course, if you are a Black TG, you have to add the problems of racial discrimination to all the horrors outlined above. As Sammy Davis Junior said when he converted to Judaism, "Now I belong to two discriminated groups at the same time!" And so it is for Black transgenders. There have been significant accomplishments by Black TGs. Tommy Ross, Cezan, Tasha Long, just to name a few, all of whom have won major transgender pageants. But for every one of us who are in the spotlight and the public eye, there are hundreds more worrying, wondering, and suffering, trying to reconcile inner feelings with external plumbing and society's prejudice.

Thank you for reading this column and learning more about what makes transgenders tick. Many of my gay, lesbian, and bisexual readers and friends have endured similar rejection, ridicule, and harassment in pursuit of their sexual orientation and can identify with the problems faced by the transgendered. Thank you for that understanding.

Endless love,
Teryl-Lynn

we go deep



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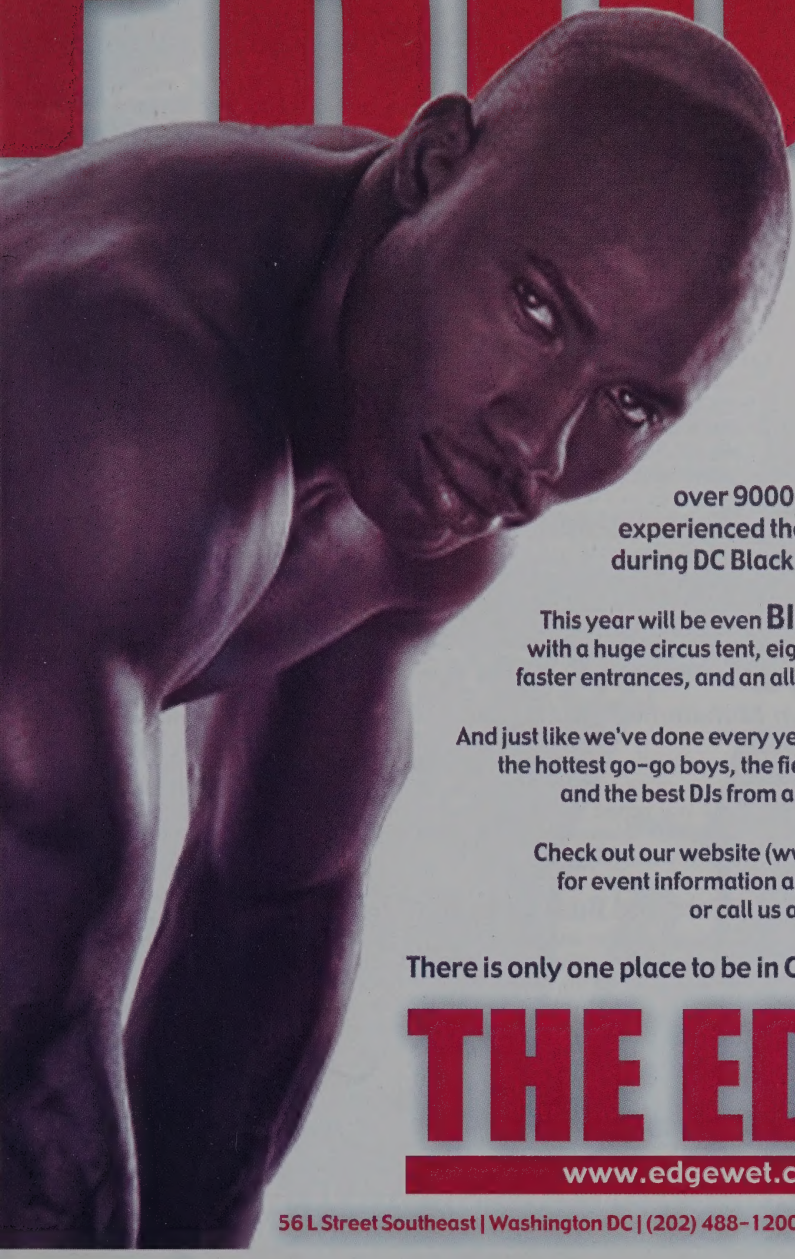

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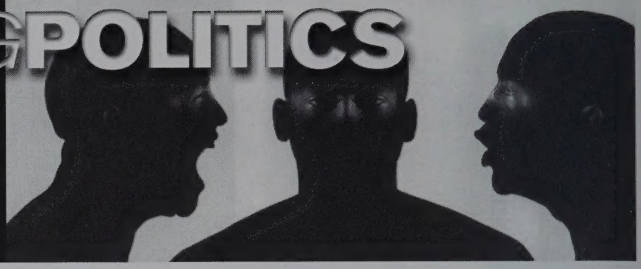
TALKING POLITICS

Clikque Magazine



Same Sex Marriage-No / Domestic Partnerships - Maybe?

The people of California have spoken on the issue of marriage. Their overwhelming verdict: married status should be exclusively a "one-man/one-woman" arrangement, according to the results of a March 7 ballot measure. Proposition 22, also known as "the Knight Initiative" bans the state of California from recognizing same-sex marriages.

In Vermont, however, the state legislature is under a court mandate to give same-sex relationships equal standing to "traditional" marriages. A sweeping Domestic Partnership proposal has been passed by the Vermont legislature. Upon ratification, it will be the most comprehensive measure of its kind in the United States, offering most of the same legal protections to same-sex partners as those that are avaiiable to married couples. At press time, the state senate and Governor were expected to approve the measure.

Groups like the Human Rights Campaign are applauding the move, but caution that this "separate" status will never be equal to fuli marriage. A more pressing concern is the inevitable anti-gay furor that will come as the right-wing seeks to prevent domestic policy measures from being pursued in other states.

Gay and lesbian families counted in 2000 Census

Whatever the term, households where there is a same-sex partnership are being counted in the Census. Although there is no mechanism to count people based on sexual orientation, the census will track how people are related to each other in the household. People who live with a same-sex partner are encouraged to mark the "Unmarried Partner" category in order to be properly counted. Same-sex partners that mark the "Spouse" category will also be counted. Strong participation by people of color will also help demonstrate our presence and potential power as a community. The Census's self reported 203 year perfect confidentiality record should calm fears among those who do not want their relationships to be public knowledge. For more information, check out www.census.gov.

written by
DyShawn Muhammed atlanta, ga.

Gore and Bush go head to head.

With Bill Bradley and John McCain off the trail, the race to November has officially begun. Texas Governor George Bush has seen his lead over Vice President Al Gore drop to a statistically narrow margin in recent weeks. The fight for turnout of minority and other "base" voting blocs on the Democratic side, and an appeal to so-called "Reagan Democrats" by Bush are expected to be the featured elements of the campaign.

African American political pollster and analyst Harry L. Ross has stated that Bush's alignment with hard-line religious conservative groups will create problems for him in the General Election in the fall. Thus, he can be expected to try to move more to the center. Ross, noted for his 95% accuracy, also predicted that if Bush faces Gore in a debate, he will lose in November. Meanwhile, Gore's connection to the tumultuous Clinton administration will be a persistent drag on his campaign for support from scandal-weary voters.

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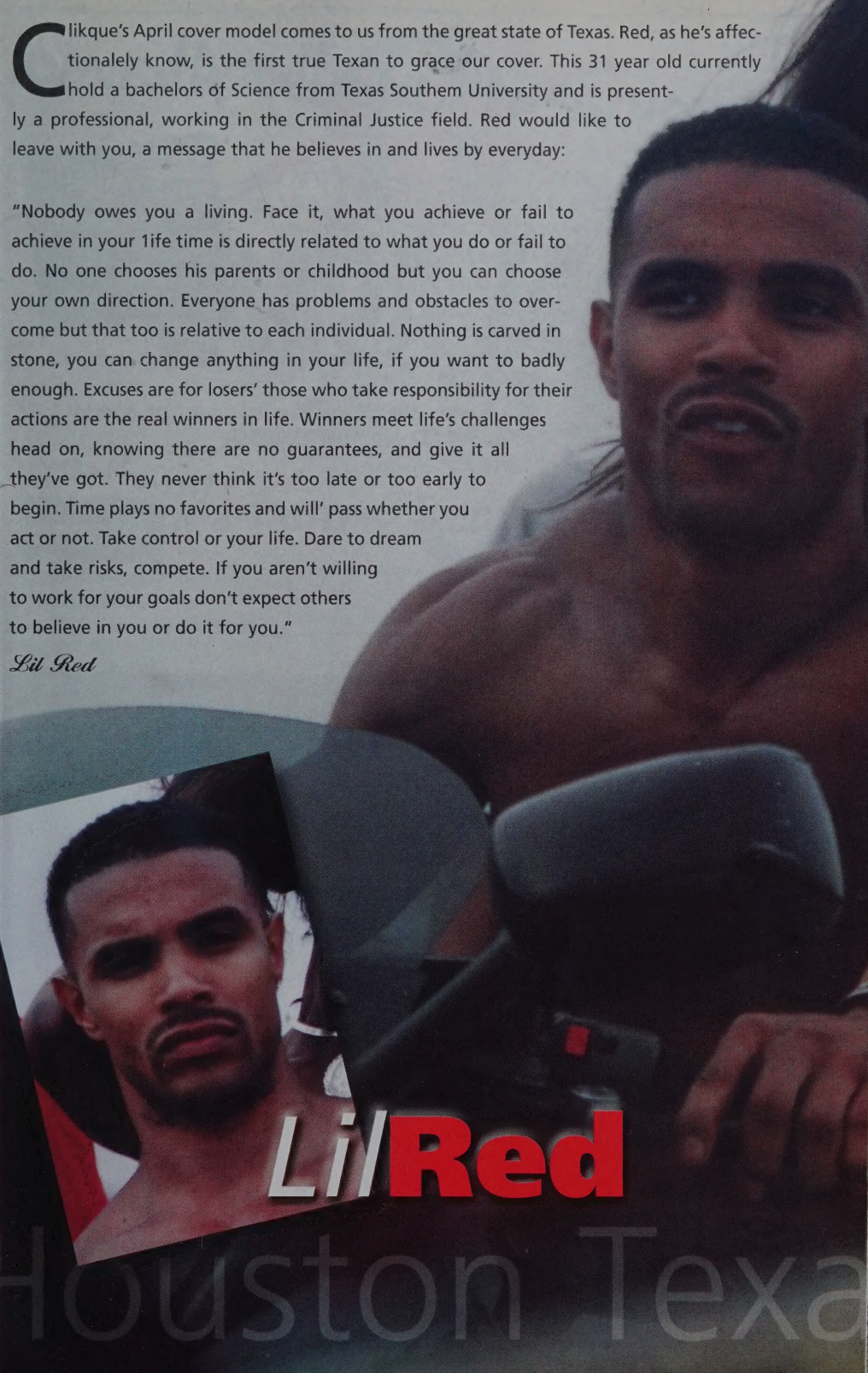
Clikque's April cover model comes to us from the great state of Texas. Red, as he's affectionalely know, is the first true Texan to grace our cover. This 31 year old currently hold a bachelors of Science from Texas Southem University and is presently a professional, working in the Criminal Justice field. Red would like to leave with you, a message that he believes in and lives by everyday:

"Nobody owes you a living. Face it, what you achieve or fail to achieve in your 1ife time is directly related to what you do or fail to do. No one chooses his parents or childhood but you can choose your own direction. Everyone has problems and obstacles to overcome but that too is relative to each individual. Nothing is carved in stone, you can change anything in your life, if you want to badly enough. Excuses are for losers' those who take responsibility for their actions are the real winners in life. Winners meet life's challenges head on, knowing there are no guarantees, and give it all they've got. They never think it's too late or too early to begin. Time plays no favorites and will' pass whether you act or not. Take control or your life. Dare to dream and take risks, compete. If you aren't willing to work for your goals don't expect others to believe in you or do it for you."

Lil Red



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Friday June 9th - Sunday June 11th

Tampa Jamz- "Remarkable...."

Have you been couped up all winter long? Are you looking for a new and exciting way to get your summer started off? Need a vacation? Looking for fun, excitement, and lots of sunshine? Join Clikque Magazine as it presents the first ever Tampa Jamz, June 9-11, 2000 in Tampa, Florida.

This weekend promises to serve you face, body, and fun. Hundreds of people have responded to the call to Tampa and we are expecting hundreds more to join us for 3 fabulous fun filled days on the western coast of Florida. Clikque offers the best of the best including some of the countries most dazzling entertainment- hosted by the Queen of YAMS- **Sophia McIntosh**, featuring Mr & Ms Clikque America 2000- **Tim Bolhar** and **Teryl-Lynn Foxx** along with the cast of the Theatre of the Stars- from Atlanta.

Clikque resident DJ's will spin you into oblivion and beyond with their own unique mixes of HipHop, House, R&B, and a very special blend of shake til' you quake music. Its going to be one non stop party that you will tell your "children" about for years to come. If you're old enough to feel the rhythm your old enough to Jam with Clikque in Tampa for Tampa Jamz.

This party is **not for the faint of heart, as the hot bodies will be in the house and on the beach.** Now, if you think you've seen all the bodies and been to the best of parties...you may be right...but this is one event you cannot afford to miss as **Clikque sets the party standard for the new millennium.** And if the action on the beach gets too hot we'll bring it in doors for you to do it.... all night long. Then to capp it all off join Clikque at Busch Gardens for a funtastic experience of thrills and frills in one of the nations most captivating and exhilarating theme parks.

What: Tampa Jamz!

When: June 9-11, 2000

Where: Tampa, Florida- Luxurious Hyatt Hotel and Resort in Downtown Tampa

Who: Women & Men from around the world converge for the biggest party to hit the Western Florida Seaboard in the millennium

How: Contact Clikque to register / contact the Hyatt to make reservations

A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to People of Color AIDS Coalition, serving the Tampa and St. Petersburg areas.

So you can party and help someone else in the process... The best of everything...that's what Clikque represents and what we will bring you as Tampa Jamz...join us!!! We're going to leave you saying "Remarkable..."

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JUNE 9TH-11TH

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Saturday, June 10

"Wet N' Wild" Beach Party

1:00 P.M.- 7:00 PM - Fort DeSoto National State Park (See Map)
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"Wet N' Wild" Diva Revue

9:30 P.M.-11:00 PM.
Hosted by Dominique Rashaad & Sophia McIntosh featuring "The Stars of the Century" (Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Raquel Lord, Necole Luv Dupree, Stasha Sanchez, R'Darious Black & Monté St. James. Also featuring Mr. and Miss Clikque America 2000, Maxine Blue and special invited guests. AfterThe Diva Revue, you're welcome to stay for the Sweat Party absolutely FREE!

"Wet N' Wild" Sweat Party

Come be a part of this summer's "heatwave". The HOTTEST PARTY to ever hit Tampa featuring some of the industries FIERCEST male dancers. House music by DJ Keith/ TRAXX along with DJ Smash/Fusions spinning hip-hop and reggae

Sunday, June 11

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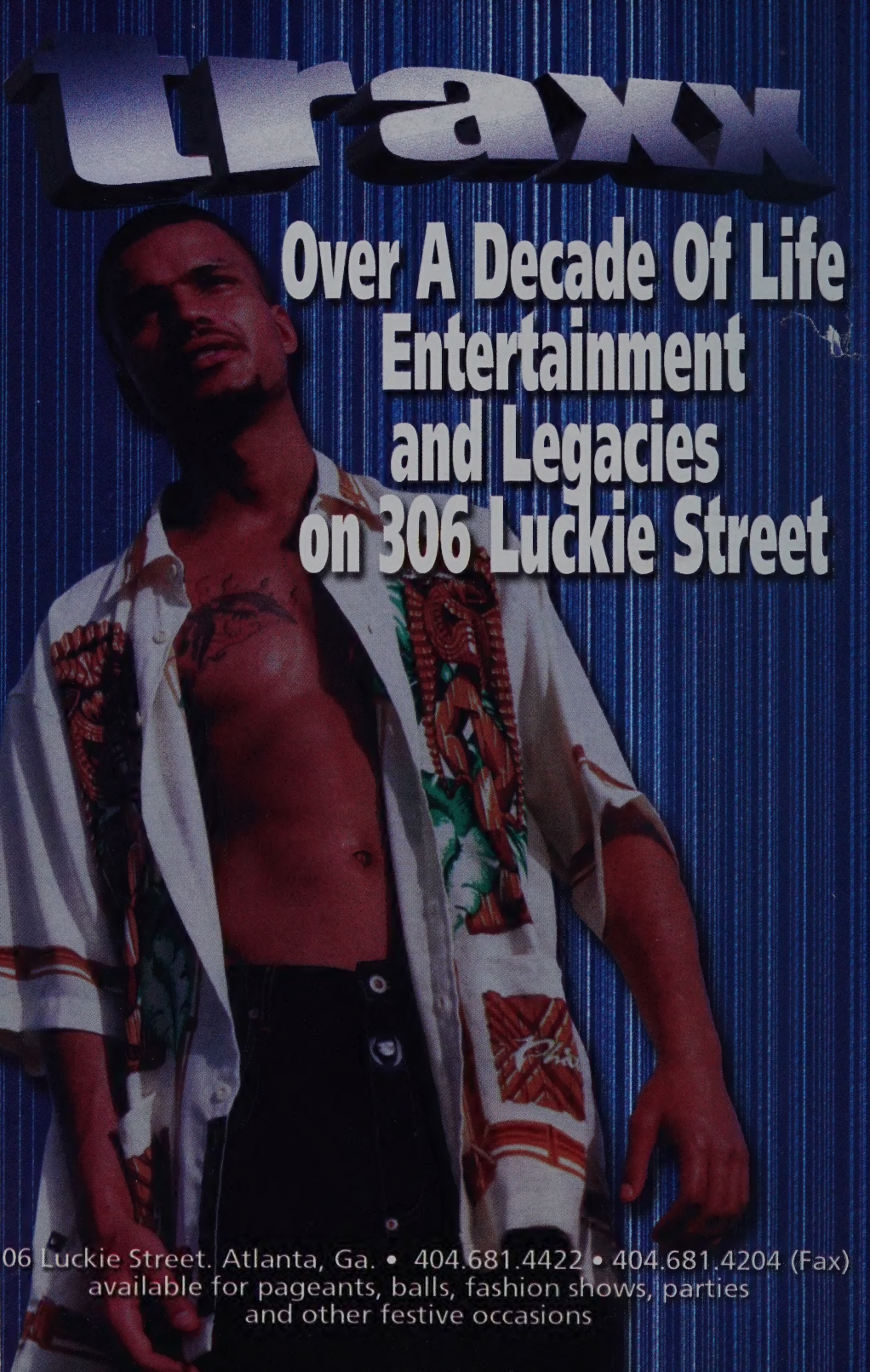
People Of Color AIDS Coalition, Inc.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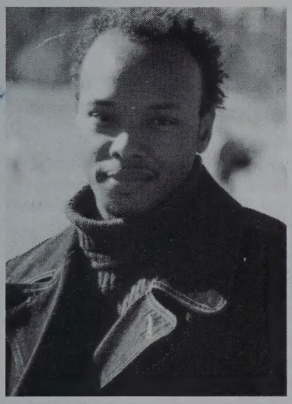
Clikque Magazine



SALUTATIONS CLIKQUE READERS!

I am extremely pleased to inform you that our New Orleans launch party, held last month was a whopping success. Given the reception that we received from our many supporters, you can be sure to look for us in a town near you. Look out for Clikque's next release party at Chicago Black Pride Weekend and Memphis Pride. Details will follow in the next issue. This month Clikque Magazine would like to wish DON SNEED (HIV/AIDS Editor) a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

Don't get caught in FREAKNIK Traffic! Come join CLIKQUE Magazine as we host our 2nd Anniversary celebration during Freaknik Weekend (April 21-24) in Atlanta. Festivities will begin at the Clikque office with an Art Show featuring work from the MARVINES art collection entitled "I AM WHO I AM" (please notice this advertisement found on page 28). Immediately following this exhibit come and begin your FREAKNIK with Clikque Magazine as we hold our anniversary kick-off party at Fusions Nightclub. Come ready to sweat as DJ Smash spins hip-hop & reggae along with the infamous DJ Cedric giving you house music like you've never experienced before. On Saturday, April 22, Clikque Magazine gets down at TRAXX Nightclub with many surprises throughout the night and FREE food for everyone. On Sunday, 12:30 p.m. come join us back at Fusions Nightclub to enjoy strippers from across the country along with your host Sophia McIntosh and Maxine Blue. We will cap off our weekend celebration with "The Stars of the Century" and special guest Teryl-Lynn Foxx(Miss Clikque America 2000).

See you there!
James Martin/ EVENTS MANAGER

April 21-22 — Atlanta, Ga.
Anniversary Party / Atlanta

May 4-7 — Houston,Tx
Splash/Anniversary Pool Party

May 26-29, Washington DC
DC. Pride (Memorial Day Wknd)

June 9-11, Tampa, Fl
Tampa Jamz 2000 (Beach Party)

June 16-18, Memphis, TN
Memphis Pride - Party

June 30-July 2, New York, NY
New York Pride - Party

June 29th-July 3rd Chicago, IL
Chicago Pride - Pool Party

July 14-16 , Detroit, Mi
Detroit Pride - Pool Party

August 4-6th, New York, NY
New York Black Pride

August 13th, Atlanta, Ga
Queens of Comedy Revue

September 1-4
Atlanta Pride - A Surprise

October 6-7th, Dallas, Tx.
Dallas Black Pride

October 29th, Atlanta, Ga.
CLIKQUE FIERCE AWARDS

November 19, Atlanta, Ga.
CLIKQUE FASHION SHOW

December 15, Atlanta, Ga.
CLIKQUE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Other events are also scheduled, details to follow. If you would like to be on our...
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Continued From Page 18

both the state and federal government have legally acknowledged the partnership created by the religious act of marriage. When opposite-sex couples marry they are required to complete a marriage certificate. This legal document acknowledges these two people intend become a legal partnership through the act of religious or civil marriage.

As for why isn't this a hot issue within the SGL community, I believe that there is are enough out and vocal members of our community to make our issues known in the public. Even in a city as large as Atlanta, with questionably the largest population of gay black men in the country, our voices are not well known in the political community. There is internalized homophobia within the SGL community and the fear of reprisals from our family, friends, colleagues, church, and the larger black community keeps our voices quiet on issues important to our community. I also believe that with the strong religious background that most people in the SGL community were brought up to believe, there are a lot of people who may believe that two men or two women marrying in the traditional sense of the word is outside of the framework of their belief system.

So, I believe to change the definition of marriage is to undo thousands of years of religious doctrine. It would require a complete overhaul of the belief systems of every recognized religion in the world. I believe that to legally afford the recognition of gay and lesbian couples better addresses our needs. I think further, that our gay and lesbian community and national leaders should ensure that our message is not that we want to change the church or its teachings, however, what we want to change is the state/federal law to afford us the same legal protections. Our society provides for the separation of church and state, we can change the law without forcing the church to accept gay marriages or even creating the term 'gay marriages'.

Ahotep Adodi

to many times i see bru and sisters living their lives thought their sexuality instead of allowing their sexuality to be a part of who they are.

Our rights are not about our sexuality but our political and civil stance. It is not a fight for economic freedom or the color of our skin. we can get bus'n, eat in any resturant, etc... We are talking about spiritual and political issues that need to be addressed. We are talking about our sexual orientation not our sexual preference. If ya are in to S&M it is a sexual preference. If you are into drag while having sex it is a sexual preference. If you are into swinging your titties from a chandler it is a sexual preference.

Our sexual orientation simply deals with the fact that we are men who love men, women who love women or simply men and women who love both. we are attracted to them. we are desirous of them.

There needs to be a national march not to the washington monument but to the steps of the senate and house of representitive. and there needs to be a reality enforced. We should be targeting our sexual orientation. A leather man is not going to wear his chaps and bare azz while grocery shopping. A drag queen is not gonna wear a full length evening gown at the corner drug store. A fem brotha is not gonna wear coochie cuters at thier job. A lesbian is not gonna have her titties swinging in the wind and beating a bongo drum while pumping gas.

Lets get to reality in our everyday beingness; we don't do those things. Then why in marches for our equality do we enlist every steroytype that ever existed. If we would stop believing in the race cons. and create our own. We can change the perception the world has about us.

Muc Luv, peace and blessings

David- Cambridge, Massachusettes

The current marriage debate raises questions regarding the value that a SGL community adds to our society. Whether for security, property, money, or social standing, there has always been a motivating factor for marriage. Today, the motivating factor for the SGL community is access. Equality notwithstanding, access to the privileges ascribed to marriage, such as health care for families and partners, parental rights and greater access to adoption, and legal and financial protection for spouses/partners, are just a few of the key drivers in the marriage debate. Marriage is not a hot issue for the "SGL community of color" because we have not articulated which of the issues above is important to us. Furthermore, to be involved in the marriage debate requires that we become visible—and that's something that we are clearly not prepared to be. God need not worry about joining us together because we will put marriage asunder ourselves.

Chris Thurston, West Palm Beach, FL

It should definently be a concern within our own community. I believe that a lot of people don't consider it a problem; especially those on the DL. I have a lot of white associates (being a student at FSU makes it easy), and most of them are gay. They generally plan to live normally with the love of their lives forever. I know personally a lot of the younger generation (our generation) don't normally think about it, or just not that far in the future. Right know everything's a party and will continue to be a party until around 26yrs old. Of course that's not with everyone.....some people take longer!!! Never-the-less, as I said before, I also think it has to do with the amount of people on the DL. I understand everyone can't be me.....we can't all be Openly GAY and proud of it. However there are issues at hand! I also know that within our community people are nervous of others finding out. A lot of us wouldn't even think of going to a pride march, or a public place where we may be seen!

I really feel that this needs to be targeted an nipped in the bud! That way future generations won't have the same mentality. I know it seem like I'm rambling on, but I really feel strongly about this. The lovers that are together and have been together for a while are basically just shacking up!! Most of them have no plans for marrige or even an engagement.....If your going to nip the nector might as well sample (or buy) the fruit!!!!!!!!!!

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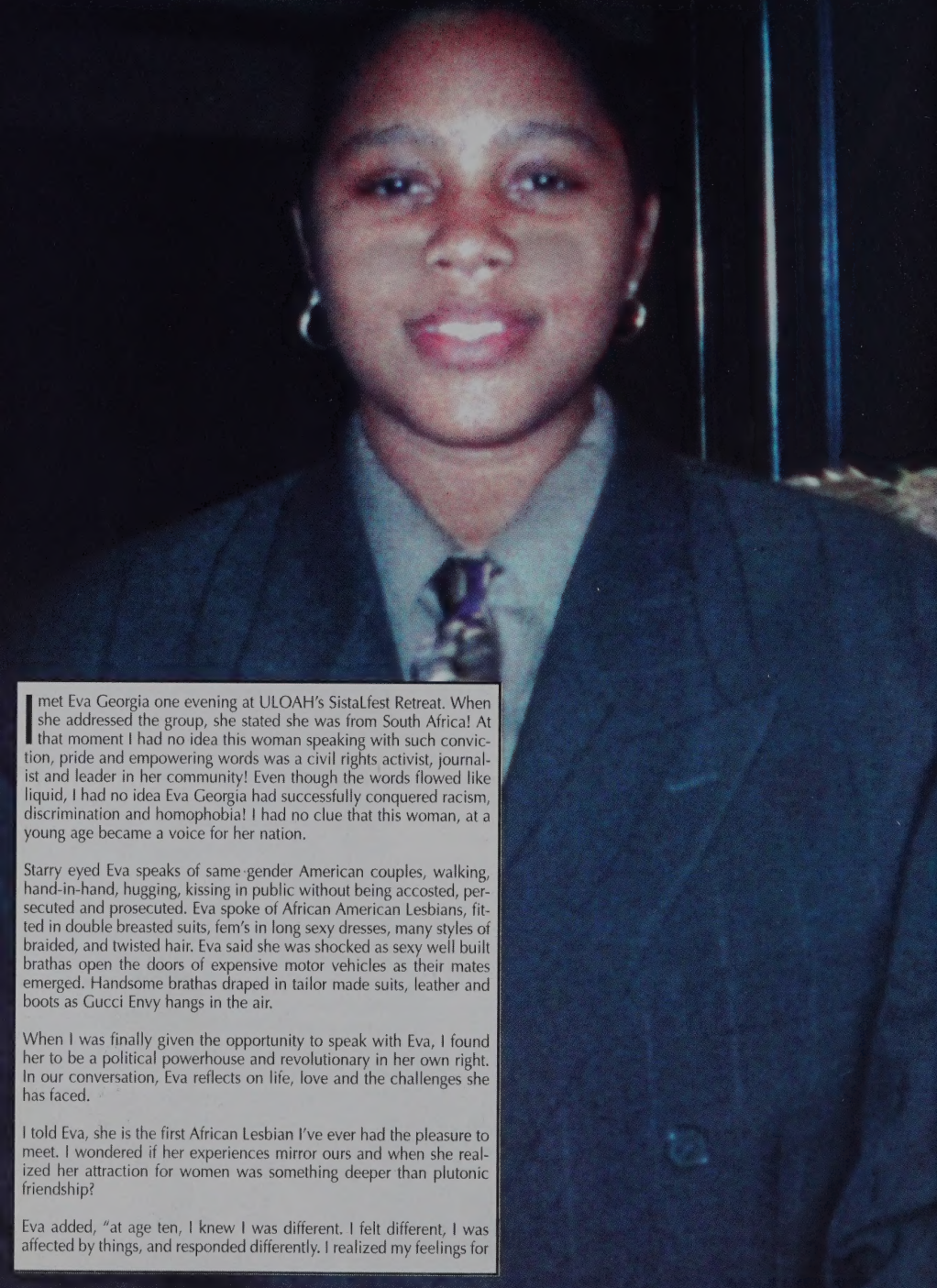
Trought African Eyes

Eva Georgia; Civil Rights Activist, Feminist, Journalist By Jenntfer Glover



I met Eva Georgia one evening at ULOAH's SistaLfest Retreat. When she addressed the group, she stated she was from South Africa! At that moment I had no idea this woman speaking with such conviction, pride and empowering words was a civil rights activist, journalist and leader in her community! Even though the words flowed like liquid, I had no idea Eva Georgia had successfully conquered racism, discrimination and homophobia! I had no clue that this woman, at a young age became a voice for her nation.

Starry eyed Eva speaks of same-gender American couples, walking, hand-in-hand, hugging, kissing in public without being accosted, persecuted and prosecuted. Eva spoke of African American Lesbians, fitted in double breasted suits, fem's in long sexy dresses, many styles of braided, and twisted hair. Eva said she was shocked as sexy well built brathas open the doors of expensive motor vehicles as their mates emerged. Handsome brathas draped in tailor made suits, leather and boots as Gucci Envy hangs in the air.

When I was finally given the opportunity to speak with Eva, I found her to be a political powerhouse and revolutionary in her own right. In our conversation, Eva reflects on life, love and the challenges she has faced.

I told Eva, she is the first African Lesbian I've ever had the pleasure to meet. I wondered if her experiences mirror ours and when she realized her attraction for women was something deeper than plutonic friendship?

Eva added, "at age ten, I knew I was different. I felt different, I was affected by things, and responded differently. I realized my feelings for

my best friend who was female, were more than plutonic! I was always with and around boys. I was such a tom boy in the midst of finding my true identity".

I told Eva in my youth, I struggled with my identity, my family and their religious stance as have many other Lesbians. I asked her could she relate to the many stories of neglect, abandonment, confusion and exile that binds African American Lesbians?

Eva's response was, "I can definitely relate! As young person, I felt very confused. I felt isolated knowing if my true feelings were exposed I would suffer a terrible fate as did other gays. I was confused in Capetown's Christian society where divorce and homosexuality were not permitted. I grew up with the understanding that I would eventually marry a man! My family was all about the Christian Church and the laws that governed it. The church made it clear that homosexuality is a sin in the eyes of God and it treated gays accordingly! Homosexuality was the ultimate sin worthy of a life in prison. At a young age, I taught Sunday school, I was prominent in the church. I like, everyone else, was expected to fulfill my vows, and deny my true self. It was extremely difficult, painful, and disheartening to hide what I felt and who?

"But not only that, because my family is a mixture of Africans, Dutch & German, my family was considered colored or light skinned. That set us apart from other people. The colored people were affluent. They were respected by the whites of Capetown. I was taught by my mother to be careful, go inside, the Black man will rape you, assault you. The black people delivered the mail, took the trash or cleaned your house. Only, they came in the back door! I did not understand such separation. At a very young age I began to speak out, to challenge, and be an activist for change. I spoke out against the injustices around me. I became a well respected young activist in my community. Soon I became the young voice against apartheid! As I look back, my family never spoke of politics. I learned of politics outside the doors of my home. There was no anti apartheid government mentality. Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Ghandi, and Martin Luther King were my heroes"!

I told Eva from my experiences, in this country homophobic fear and discrimination based on homophobia is a standard practice. It's common place. I asked Eva had she as a lesbian ever experienced homophobia? How did she respond, and how did she rise above it?

"At twenty one I had a huge birthday party, complete with caviar and gifts. A month later, word traveled to my mother that I was gay! My family turned on me. They locked me up and would not let me have one moment alone. I couldn't use the phone, I had no privacy. They beat me up thinking I would change! They beat me for being different, for being gay, and for finally being me! My brother was so angry with me. He said he would make me pay for what I have done! They tried every harsh abuse they could think of, which included therapy and the bishop! The Bishop hurniliated me by demanding and lecturing that my emotions did not exist, and that according to Christian belief such thoughts are a sin. The Bishop also relieved me of my Sunday school teaching duties. According to him I was no longer good enough, astute enough to be a Sunday school teacher. I did not understand why everyone, including the church was discriminating against me. I was devastated".

"I was estranged from my Christian Church at a young age. Because of these experiences I stayed away from church for many many years. I didn't return until I came to America and found Living In The Light Ministry!"

"Soon after I was confined, I ran away. My first real girlfriend smuggled me out of town. In weeks my family beat up and raided my friends homes looking for me. I tried to go back to work, but my family had reported me missing to the police! Everywhere I turned there was my family and the police. For eight or nine months I had no contact with my family which was a devastating blow. In the midst of all that, gays around me were being exiled, thrown into prisons and murdered".

"I lost weight, became ill, and emotionally exhausted. I decided to call my mother. She was extremely happy and relieved. My mother said, she would rather have a gay daughter instead of no daughter. She stated she was willing to learn, but not willing to loose"!

"I eventually moved to another state. I was my mother's dream child, the young activist surrounded by crowds listening to the message. I felt as if I had messed my motners dreams up and brought rny farnily shame".

"I stayed away from my family for five years. In that time I lived in Johannesburg and Soweto working as a journalist. In those years, I embraced the woman I was through activism. I helped change the face of a nation through the vision of freedom".

"Today my family accepts me completely and have opened their home to gay people. My girlfriend and I even moved into my mother's home at one point. My brother on the other hand housed such anger for me, he swore to get his revenge. During the time my girlfriend and I lived in my mother's home, my brother acted out his revenge. I caught him with my girlfriend!"

Curious, I asked Eva what was South Africa's punishment for homosexuality?

Eva, said "According to the law, it's an illegal act. You could be legally prosecuted. Many gays were exiled and fled to Britain & Europe in the eighties. Those who killed or murdered gays were not prosecuted. According to the law they were well in their right"! Currently, West African Gays are being prosecuted because of sexuality and sexual preference!

I asked Eva in the years she was away from Capetown, what type of journalism was she involved in, what did she experience?

"I was involved in political investigative journalism in Soweto. My focus was children, drugs and gangs. My political influence helped provide schools, outreach programs and sports programs. Instead of gang involvement, the children have turned their attention to soccer. Because of the positive turn around, many businesses and corporations invest in soccer gear! Lots of kids didn't make it, but those that did are examples for the future".

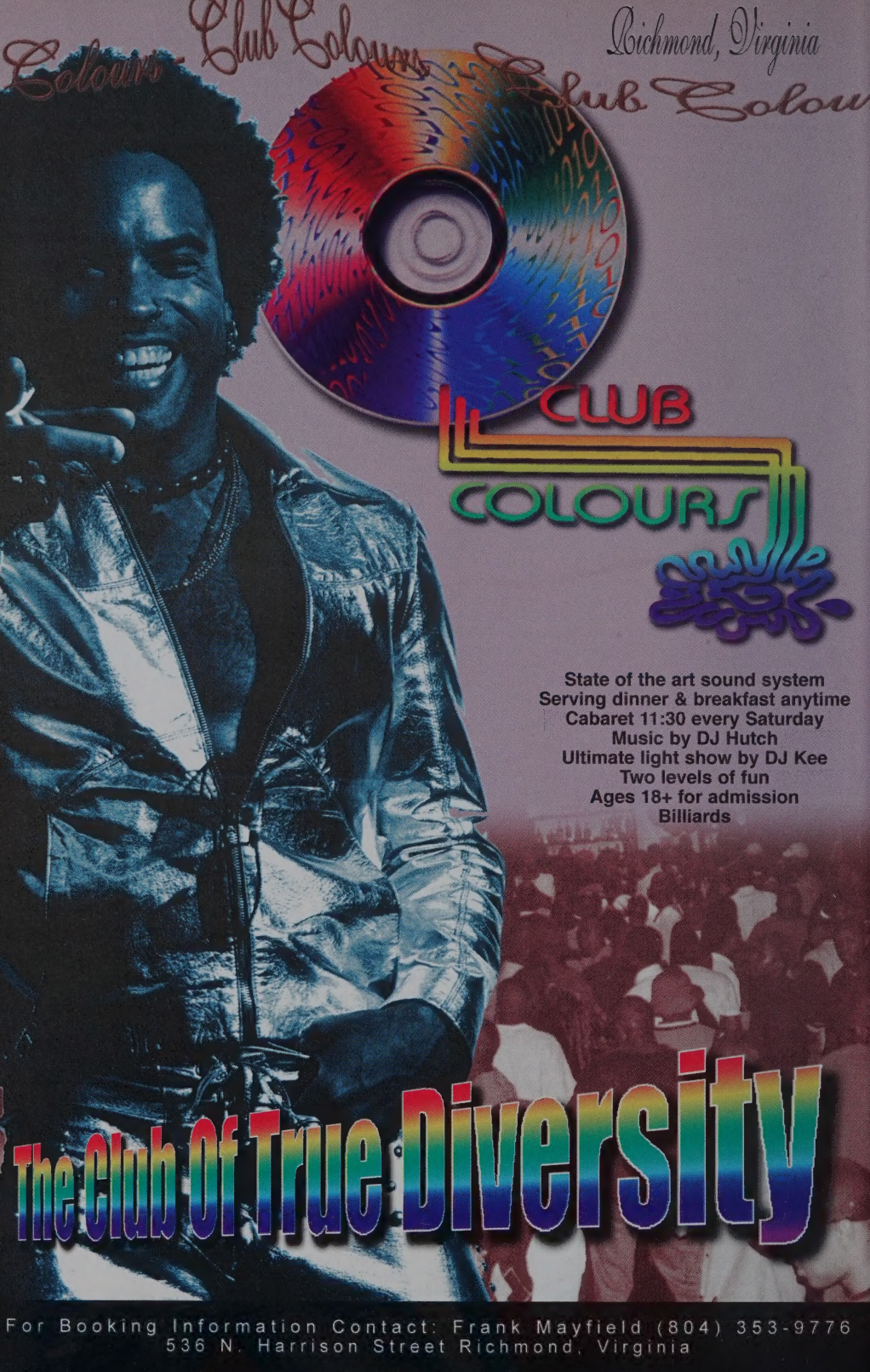
Eva often speaks of freedom in her journalism. I asked her did she feel that we as same gender loving African Americans take the freedoms that we have for granted according to what she has seen, lived or experienced?

"I would have to say yes, definitely! The media plays a powerful role in education, negative and positive reinforcement. Gays here have to be willing to utilize their art & creative gifts and make positive change. There is so much artistic talent in the gay community"!

"I also see the African American people as being the most homophobic people. They push their people away instead of embracing them. African Americans can do more for the African American gays of this country is they chose to. African American gays are exiled and isolated from their own people".

"I am shocked concerning the amount of drug use, the level of disinterest in African American youth. I am shocked that there are so few African Americans in government! Whites make the laws! I've noticed most African Americans live under race classification. They think they are better, she thinks she's better, or he doesn't like her for this or that. Blacks often limit themselves".

African Eyes Continues On Page 49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African Eyes Continued From Page 49

I told Eva I have heard so much about President Mandela's support of gay rights. I asked Eva in her opinion, what has South Africa done for it's gay citizens? How have they progressed or benefited?

"Mandela has always supported and fought for gay rights. He fought for domestic partner benefit, AIDS awareness and education. He fought to pass laws to protect the employment of gays, their families and overall right to life. Today the laws are on your side, they can not discriminate. South Africa has made huge strides in a short amount of time. A little more than a year ago in South Africa, if you look gay you don't get a job, you can't go to church, you weren't treated as a person".

"The perception of being gay has changed in the eyes of religion. Not necessarily the Christian religion, but in New Thought teachings. This is another huge step for gay people. Because of this, I'm sure marriage is not far behind".

I told Eva for the past eleven months, she has experienced how we live, interact, what drives us and what our passions are. What can we as African Americans Gays learn from South African Gays, and what can they learn from us?

"First and foremost the biggest culture shock was American values and moral standards. African Americans must learn, the very fiber of African existence is we are willing to die for who we are. No one of any culture, creed or orientation should ever give up. African Americans must see their freedom through my eyes. American Gays are examples of political strength. Look at Proposition 22, the Limit on Marriage Law. When American Gays do get their rights, Africa will see American gays as a positive role model for change. I feel all cultures can and should embrace a commitment to community".

Being a writer, journalist, and speaker, I asked Eva what keeps her grounded? What or who completes her and makes her whole?

"Because of me and my political outspokenness, children and women had the courage to come out. I was and am a role model in South Africa. I am accepted as being gay and no longer in a derogatory stereotypical light. The over all perception has changed. They no longer equate being gay with something vile because I would not lay down. That's what makes me whole. I have had an incredible life. I hope my life is an example for others to stand and be counted".

I asked Eva, is their something she would like to tell America as a whole?

"Yes, deftnitely! The world often assumes America is the home of the free and liberated. This is not the case! America must place ALL of their focus on ALL of their people, not just the affluent! America's technology is extremely advanced, but they have left their people behind".

As an African American Lesbian, I have learned much from speaking with and befriending Eva. Our levels of freedom may be taken for granted. According to Eva education or the development of the arts for women in South Africa is not encouraged. It remains a dream.

Through her eyes are our true freedoms and conscious choices revealed. Amidst the backdrop of talented writers, musicians, and those politically aware, I know there is nothing and no one that can stop us. We as African Americas are a force not to be ignored.

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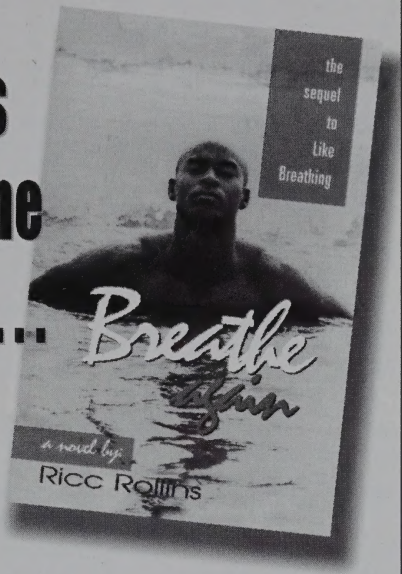

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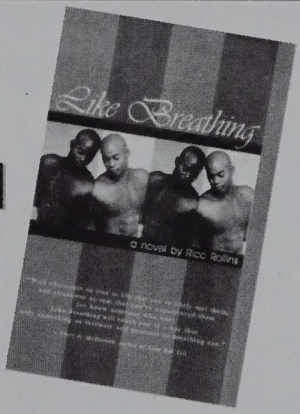

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ARIES — Its time to socialize and come out of your shell. Don't isolate yourself! There is something and someone out there waiting for you. Don't walk through life with your eyes wide shut. Rush in where others fear to tread.

TAURUS — You are at a point this year where you are fighting yourself. Your stubborness is making it difficult for others to get close to you. You are gifted with a much better ability to structure your thoughts and plan verbal presentations than most others. Allow love to guide your actions and use your gift to get what and whom you desire.

GEMINI — Baby keep'em guessing like you always do. Don't obey the limitations that life may place on you. Continue to freely express yourself but always remember to think before you speak, you may not like the consequences of your actions.

CANCER — Focus on living in the NOW! Don't get caught up with past issues or too worried about the future. Don't be afraid to present your ideas to people that are close to you, your dreams and fantasies could easily become your reality.

LEO — Don't be afraid of the change that is about to occur in your life. Embrace it! This is the beginning of something really good for you. Remain patient and just go with the flow of life, you will be happy with the outcome.

VIRGO — Allow your private self to become more public. You may have a personal struggle with wanting to express your deepest feelings to others afraid that you will be taken advantage of. Ignore these negative feelings and live freely.

LIBRA — Now is a time to deal with your issues of compulsiveness & obsessiveness. You are a natural organizationalist. Use this gift to control your issues. Concentrate on maintaining balance this month.

SCORPIO — Use what you've got to get what you want. Now is a time to put your talents of charm and persuasion to use. Let go of rigidity and possessiveness when dealing with others. Allow humor to set fire to the darkside of your consciousness. Face your good & bad qualities and make a decision about what you may or may not want to change about yourself.

SAITTARIUS — Focus on your dees and don't be so easily diverted fro them. Let your ideas unfold in eve aspect of your life. This is your mth of romance and personal fulfillme. Observe your surroundings and dot miss out on any opportunities for adncement in your personal and pressional life.

CARICORN — Allow the past to fade aw and maintain your sanity. Embrace your eccentricity! Don't keep repying the negative voices from yo childhood, this could lead to de depression. Your well ordered an materially rewarding life did not coe easy so don't become wavered wi negativity because you could lose it l. Keep your head up!

AQUARIUS — Don't become too reked with your life. There is still mh work to be done in the way of obining your goals. You easily gain exertise on whatever subject you fos on, so dive in with all you've got. Th results will strengthen your self-esem and make your life a lot easier.

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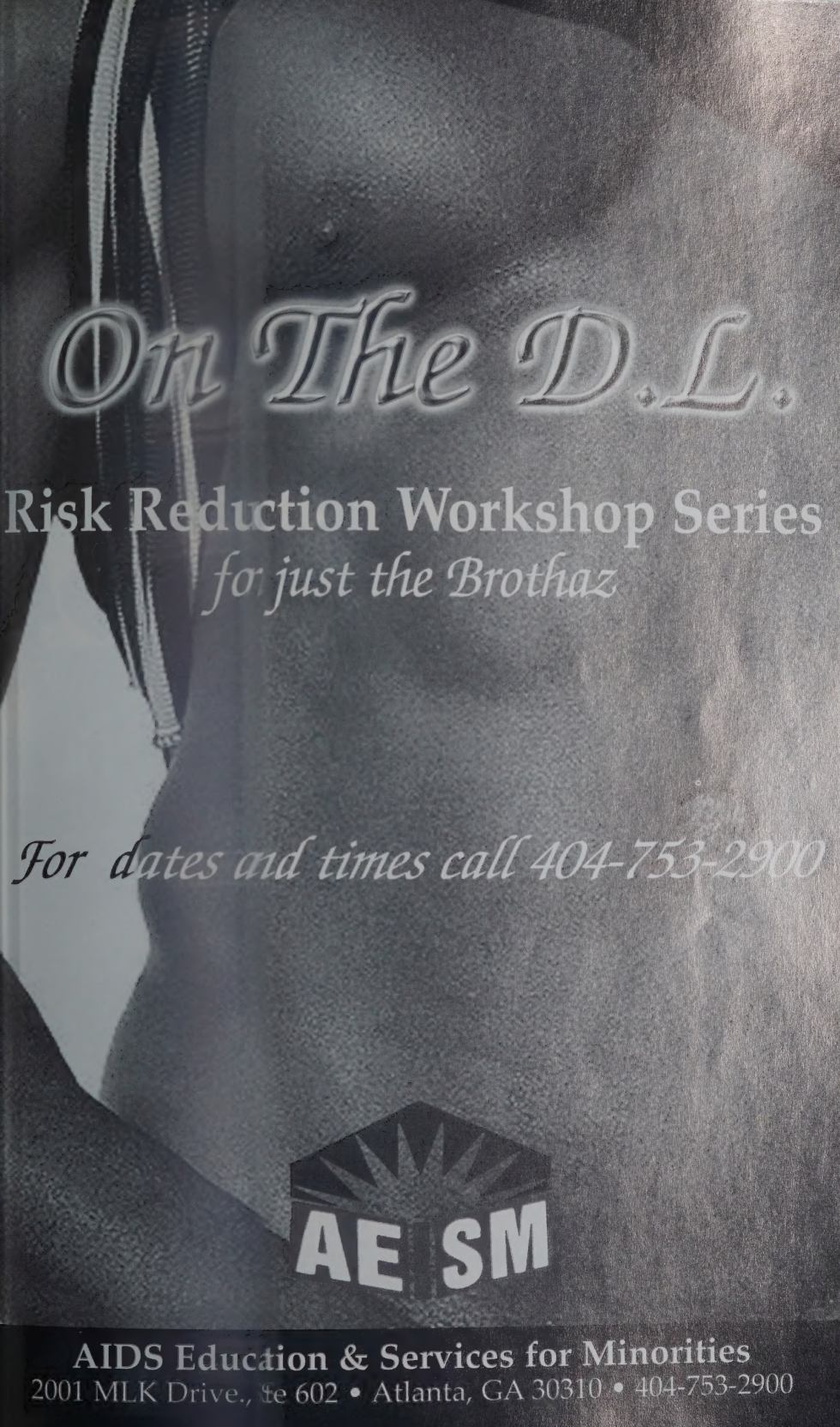
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Cycle Continued From Page 27

of the extra things that were on my plate interfering with me getting to the meat and potatoes (the real issues). I am truly grateful for this.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you that wrote to me, called the magazine or sent emails during this time. I was truly amazed at the response. Most of you I called or responded by email. If I did not get to you, let me say thank you now. I would also like to apologize to those of you that I offended during our interactions. The reason that I write such candid revealing articles about myself is because I find it extremely cathartic. I have an opportunity to get my feelings out on paper and step back and look at them. There is so much healing in writing (if you can be completely honest with yourself).

Even though my reasons for writing are selfish ones, I am happy when people write to the magazine and identify with what I am going through. However, I am very uncomfortable (although flattered) with people that want more from me. All of the friends that I have are friends that I have had most of my adult life. Because I am introverted and somewhat shy, I very rarely step out of this comfort zone. I realize that this problem may be to my detriment because I could be missing out on some beautiful friendships. But all I can say right now is that I am on a journey and working on me daily and it is MY loss. So again, I apologize to anyone that I offended.

If there is one thing that I would stress at this time it would be therapy. If you have chance to go to therapy, I would suggest that you take it. We as black men have been taught that it is not ok to deal with our feelings. We have to be tough and strong and it is not ok to cry. Or we have been taught that there is nothing that God can't work out for us. Let me be the first to announce that I am a strong, tough black gay man who cries when needed, who gets down on his knees every night a prays to God and I see a therapist. For the same reason that when you get sick you see a doctor, when you have problems dealing with life you need to see a therapist. If you have the opportunity, take it. I promise it is worth every dime. Better yet, you are worth every dime and so am I.

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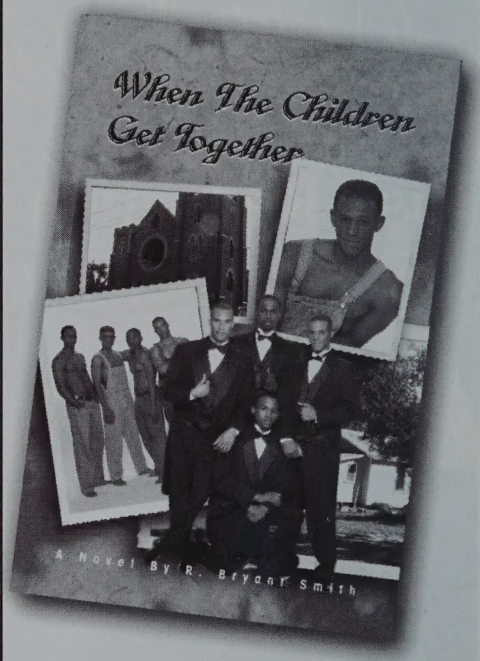

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Press # Then 2

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Clikque Magazine

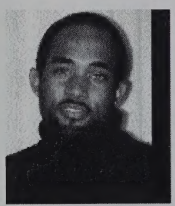
Part X

Door "655"

APRIL FOOLS!!! So did I fool you all last month? Just when you thought your two boys were finally gettin it on, it turned out to be a dream. Anyway, last month you found a hungover Craig at William's doorstep. He dreams of him and William finally having sex, but its only a dream, or should I say nightmare. Because during the dream, William's face mysteriously becomes Tony, or Uncle Wes. He wakes up to turn off the television and finds a sleeping William on the couch. Although, HE was asleep, his manhood was wide awake. Craig uses this image to masturbate with, right there in the room. However , is William really asleep? The story picks up after Craig has taken a shower.

"Damn, that felt good," said Craig as he dried himself off. He wrapped the towel around his waist and stepped into the bedroom. He walked over and sat on William's bed. His headache was still there, but not as intense as before. Then, slowly, it hit him. All of the events of last night . He had forgotten about it all.....

After finding out that Tony was William's Uncle Wes, it was too much for him to digest. He needed to get out. He drove aimlessly for quite sometime, but driving through the city usually presented him with something, or somebody, to do. Yet, he still could not get William off of his



written by senior staff writer ,
Queshan Hayes atlanta, ga.

mind.

"What is it?!" he questioned himself. "Why did you put this man into my life, God? Why? You must got somethin really good planned for me." Craig continued to drive aimlessly. Brandy's raspy, yet mellow voice blurred through his speakers, calming his nerves. Lights, buildings, even people were a blur to him as his heart and mind battled each other. But suddenly his eyes gained focus. As he slowed down, he saw the sign clearly. He didn't realize that he was in the particular area, but here was the sign. "PINE STREET" Now, he had been down this street many times, but not at this hour. He made the turn on to the street. "What in the hell," he thought to himself. He couldn't believe he was actually there. There could be no harm in checking out the 'Hoe Stroll', what the locals called it. As soon as he turned onto the street, he spotted three other sets of headlights coming his way. The first two sped by. However, the last car slowed down. As it approached Craig's car, Craig too, slowed down. The car got closer and closer. Craig's heart pounded. He had never done anything like this before. Well, he had looked at guys at intersections and grocery stores, but never in a situation where he absolutely knew what was going on. As the car slowly passed Craig, he got the disappointment of a lifetime. There, just feet away from him was a big gray-haired, No, white-haired, white guy. It wasn't so much that he was white, the man just appeared to be in his late 60's. Craig sped on by and laughed to himself a hearty laugh. He needed that laugh. He decided to circle around one last time and call it a night. He would get some sleep, relax, and talk to William about everything tomorrow. As he drove up to the next cross street, an image appeared from the darkness. It was almost as if it was a shadow, not an actual human.

The figure stood against one of the buildings across the street. As Craig got closer, his head lights shone on part of the shadow's body. Boots; tan, Timberlands, sloppily laced.. Jeans; oversized, sagging and bunched up at the top of the boots. Boxers; navy blue plaids. Shirt; baby blue, sleeves ripped off, hands stuffed in the pockets. He had one foot propped against the building. That was all that Craig saw as he drove by. He continued driving, but decided to turn around to get one last view. He stopped at the end of the strip and made a U-turn. He slowly approached the building where the guy stood. This time, his view was quite clear and crisp. The image, now a being, was a light skinned guy with a small afro. He licked his thin upper lip, then the slightly drooping bottom lip, as Craig pulled closer. Craig stopped at the intersection and made eye contact with the stranger. He looked at Craig and shrugged his shoulders with his hands out as if to say, "So, whassup?" Craig pulled over and turned off his engine. The stranger looked to the left, looked to the right. He loosened up and pushed himself away from the wall. He was on his way to Craig's car. His boots dragged as his bowlegged walk made Craig's heart beat faster. The stranger leaned down onto Craig's window.

"What da deal, yo?" he said. Then, out of nowhere, he smiled. The stranger licked his lips and smiled.

"What's so funny," asked Craig.

"You, nigga. Check you out. You mad cute. You got a nice ride. You got all yo teeth and shit. What a nigga like you doin' on da strip?" he asked as he comfortably got closer to Craig. This would have made Craig uncomfortable, but he was cool. He was actually enjoying the guy's company. Craig smiled and decided to ignore the stranger's question.

"So how old are you?"

"Old enough to look yo ass in the eye and say you need to get the hell off dis strip and go home!" he said with a sexy grin.

"Whatever .." Craig said. Just then, it started to drizzle. "So you getting in or what?"
The guy looked around and looked up into the sky.

CLIKQUE ONEROTICA

Clikque Magazine

Part X

Door "655"

"Shit!' he said as he made his way around to the passenger side. He jumped in and made himself comfortable. Craig didn't know what to say at this point. Soon, the stranger began to talk.

"Yo, on the real, what a nigga like you doin over here?"

"Just a lot of shit goin on. Just kind of ended up here."

"Me too."

"Say, what," asked Craig.

"Nothin, yo...So...um...Where we goin?"

"Um...I don't know, man, you tell me."

"Aite, drive up this street, turn right and just keep goin," the stranger said. Craig followed directions and started driving. The rain really started to pour down as Denise William's , "Silly," began to play on the radio. Craig reached to change it, but before he reached the button, the stranger grabbed his hand. "Leave it yo." And so he did.

"The name is Silas, yo ,but people call me Red..... Yo! Turn right here! See, park ovah there." Craig parked the car as Denise kept pleading for love to stop making a fool of her. Her voice floated through the car as the rain drops tattered on the car's roof and windshield. Then out of nowhere, he turned to Craig and asked:

"You evah made love in the rain, yo?" Craig almost choked. He began to cough uncontrollably.

"I can't say that I have, man."

"Come on!" Silas said as he jumped out of the car into the pouring rain. He ran and sat on the hood and just stared into the sky as the rain poured all over his light, smooth face. Craig sat in the car, still in awe. He was not about to have sex with some stranger that he just met off the street. But the kid was fine, though. And there he was sitting on the hood of Craig's car, looking into the sky like he was some witch doctor or something. The boy had it going on. His toned, tight arms revealed tender muscles with strong protruding veins. Then, with rain pouring down his face and a drenched baby blue shirt, Silas turned to look Craig dead in the eyes. And with those two beautiful pink lips, he spat some excess water to the side of the car then mouthed to Craig, "Come on." And it was as if Craig was hypnotized. His legs and hands, his entire body began to move on their own accord. Before he knew it, he was standing in the pouring rain staring at Silas. Silas reached out and put his hands on Craig's hips. For that one moment in time, Craig felt the strangest feeling. It was a mixture of love, lust, passion, desire, fear, and confusion all bottled up. But before he could separate all of these emotions, his lips were being devoured by Silas. The rain poured between their faces and ran down their necks. Silas pulled Craig closer so that he was lodged between his legs as he sat on the hood of the car. He then slid off the hood, colliding into Craig's wet body. Craig could feel his rock hard manhood as it pressed through his now soaking wet jeans. The complete wetness of their clothing pressing against eachother was completely sensual. Craig's hands slid up and down Silas' wet, muscular arms as he tried to feel every wet part of him. Silas suddenly ripped away his shirt and then grabbed Craig's. Soon they were both chest to chest. The rain poured down their backs as their tongues probed deep into each other throats. Craig began to moan and hump up against Silas rigid dick.

"Yeah, kid...This is the shit, right!" Silas moaned into Craig's ear as he then licked every inch of his ear, inside and out. Craig could not respond, because Silas had already reached and grabbed his tight ass with one hand and his dick with the other. He was in ecstasy. Before he knew it, his pants began to fall. The rain had drenched his boxer briefs. They stuck to every rigid curve of his ass and his now hard dick. Silas, then unzipped his pants and let them fall to his ankles. He turned Craig around and pulled that round, hot ass closer to his dick. Craig's ass merged with Silas' with a wet 'SMACK!' Silas began to bite and lick Craig's neck as he humped his wet ass. The rain poured down their bodies. Not a soul was in sight in the secluded parking lot. With his back turned, enjoying the hot moment, Craig didn't see Silas reaching down for a condom in his pocket. He pulled down his boxers and rolled on the condom in two swift moves. He continued to kiss and bite Craig's neck. He then tugged at Craig's underwear. They slowly slid down. Craig could not believe this was happening. He just thought to himself, "What the hell." He then thought he felt Silas' bare dick rubbing against his ass cheeks. Then, all of a sudden, he felt this unbearable pain! Silas had permeated his entire soul with his rock hard dick.

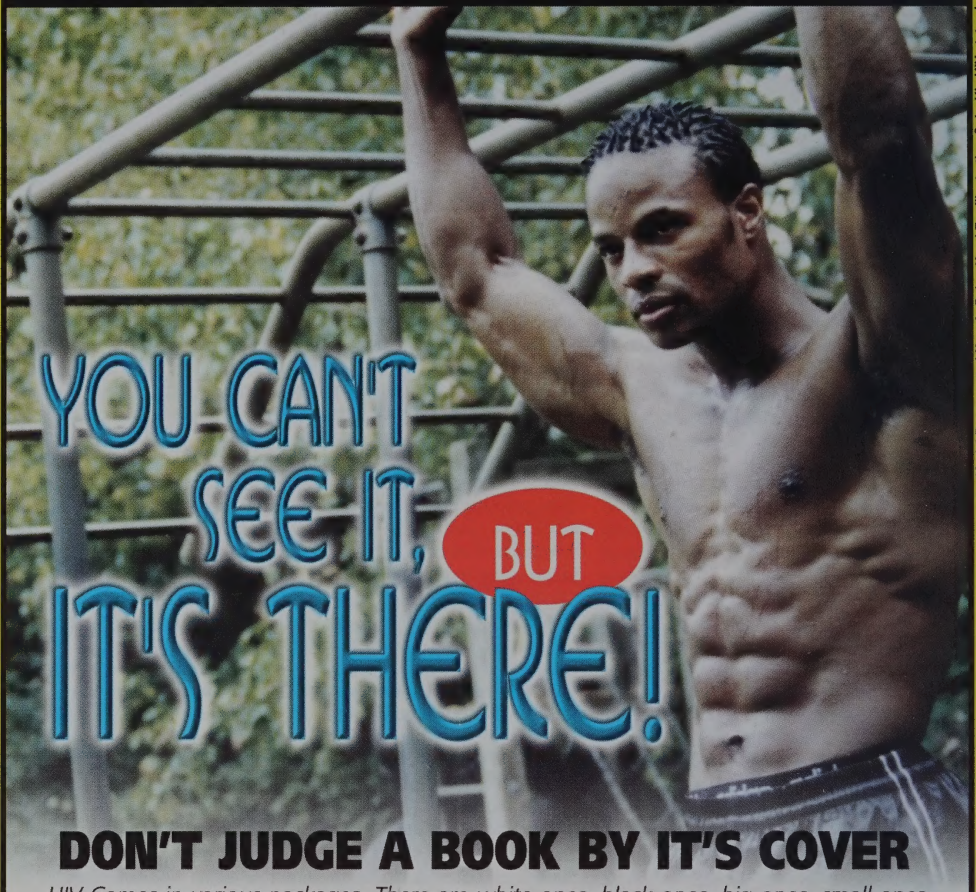
"I got you baby...I got you...Just hold on...Hold on..." he said as he held Craig tightly. It hurt so bad, Craig let two tears roll down his cheek as he gritted his teeth to bear the pain. Slowly, Silas began to pump in and out of Craig's ass. The pain slowly subsided and pleasure began to take over. Craig could not believe it. He was having sex in the rain. Their bodies began to smack into eachother with loud, wet claps. It was so hot. Silas went hard. Hard and fast. He grunted with each thrust. Their bodies slipped and slid against eachother. Silas was getting close.

"I'm about to nut, yo...I'm about to nut!" And with those words, he pulled out, ripped off the condom, and hot shots of cum spattered all over Craig's wet ass. He jerked and jerked until he had every drop out. Craig had already come. They just stood there holding eachother as the rain poured on their bodies. Craig, against the hood with his back towards Silas and Silas pressed close against Craig's back.....

Craig tried to remember what caused him to go drink so much. Was that all they did? The sex was off the hook. It wasn't that. He then

Door 655 Continues On Page 60

Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Model Represented Here Is Being Used For Illustration Only. His HIV status is not known

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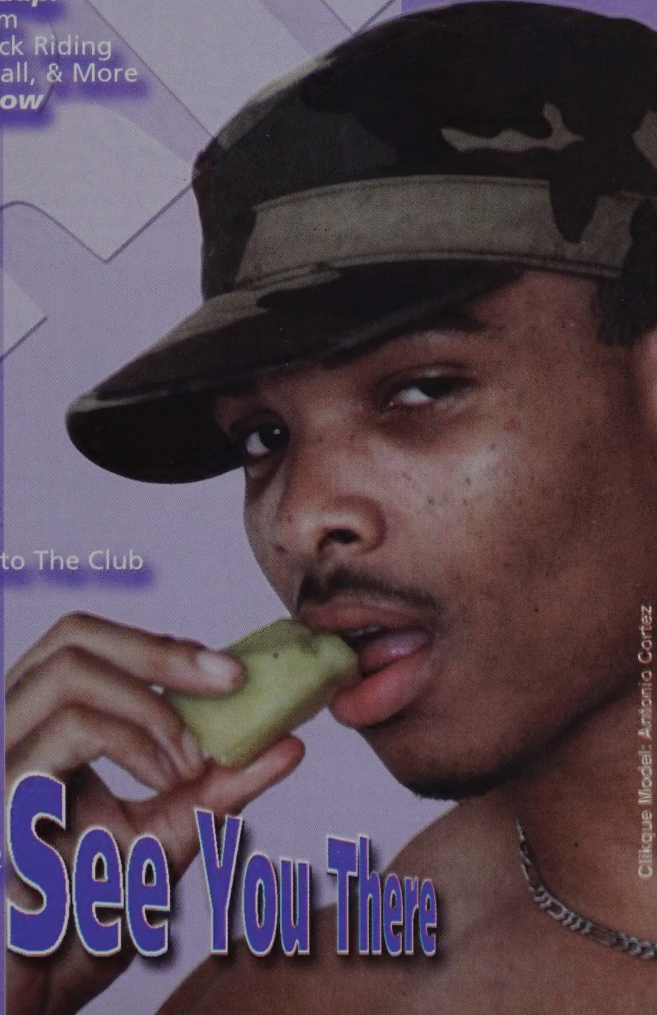

Clikque Model: Antonio Cortez

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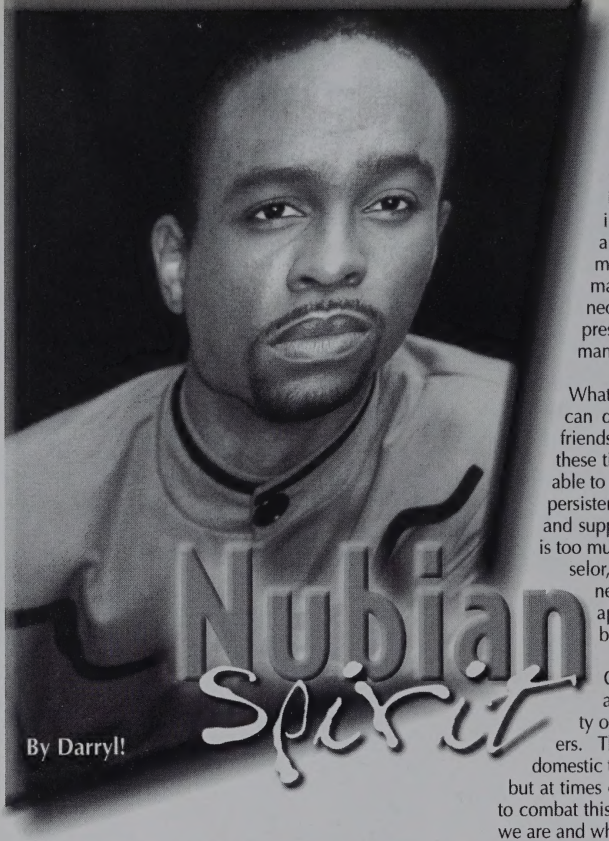


Nubian Spirit

By Darryl!

Over the past few weeks I have had several conversations about things that are affecting our people, such as personal choices and the politics of those choices, relationships and the issues faced in navigating through past hurts and hopes, as well as suicide and the issues that lead people to choose death as opposed to life. Over time, the later has become increasingly more and more prevalent in the African-American community and it is time that we begin the healing process from the pain that leads to suicide.

Beloved, let us stop and take inventory of our lives. There is so much that society throws into our path and we have to determine what is valuable and what is clearly trash. We have to be strong enough to discard the trash and humble enough to accept and integrate the good into our lives. So often this is hard to do and it is important to have a solid support system around us. This support system can include your friends, family, or family of choice; but it must consist of persons who have your very best in mind. They must be willing to give you deep honest criticism or sincere praise for the choices you are making. They should be your refuge.

Unfortunately, over the years many of our sisters and brothers have not been able to find their refuge. They became overwhelmed and with no where to turn they turn their anger, frustrations, disappointments, and fear on themselves and become self destructive. The problem is not that these precious children kill themselves but that they could not see any other alternative.

What can we do and how can we confront the issues that affect us which lead to suicide? We can first begin to look for the signs of behaviors or attitudes that can lead to self-destruction: depression, social withdrawal, extreme stress, financial difficulties, sexual confusion or discomfort, rejection, isolation, break-ups, disconnection from family, religious oppression, societal intolerance, and other life stressors. We all experience most of these from time to time. Some of us may experience many of these things simultaneously; but we handle them. But for some the pressure and stress is too great and the ability to manage deteriorates over time.

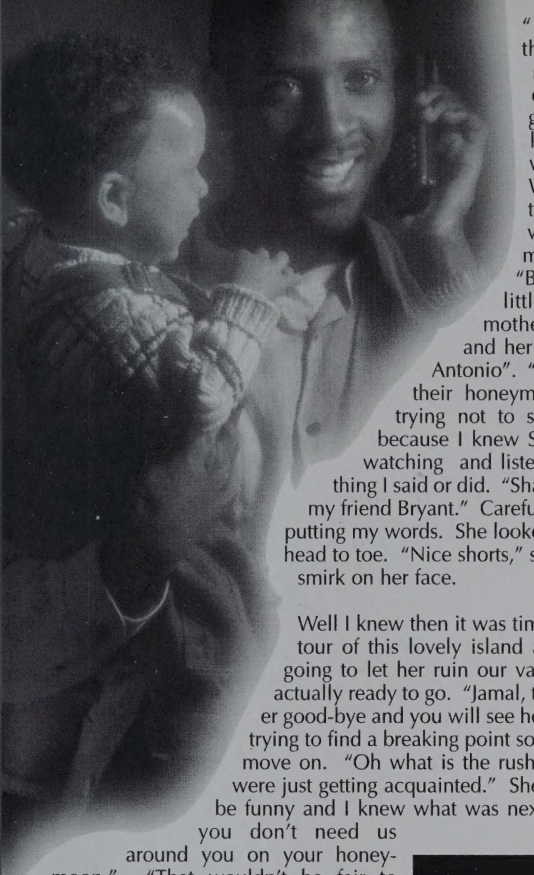
What we, those of us on the outside looking in, can do is NOT be silent. We must talk to the friends and family members we see going through these times and not assume that they can or will be able to handle everything on their own. We must be persistent and consistent in our unconditional love and support. We also must know when the situation is too much for us to address and a professional counselor, social worker, psychologist, or psychiatrist is needed to assist the person in developing appropriate coping skills and alternative behaviors for their survival.

Collectively we need to be willing to be open and honest about the negative effects of society on how people feel about themselves and others. The messages of hate do not always result in domestic terrorism or hate crimes perpetrated on others but at times can be turned inward on ourselves. In order to combat this evil we must be willing to stand up for who we are and what we believe. And at the same time we must be willing to accept others where they are as well; without condemnation.

Most of us look to some kind of spiritual example from which we draw our perceptions and develop our foundations of inter-relating with others. In none of those spiritual examples are intolerance and anarchy acceptable models of behavior towards others. We are very aware of religious persecutions and the rise of powers and wars in the name of "god." Even so does this mean we have to perpetuate these beliefs on others or ourselves?

In the end we are all we have and we must choose to love ourselves and each other. If we can do this then the over whelming and burdened lives of our other sisters and brothers will not be too much for us to be involved with and as such will not be too much for them to bear. Over the years we have coined some wonderful phrases and songs such as " Lean On Me," "I'll Be There," " We Are Family," This Little Light of Mine," " Ain't Gon' Let Nobody," "Ease On Down The Road," and a host of other songs that have carried us over. Beloved, we must now make those songs reality in our experience and collective consciousness. Pain will subside, depression can be conquered, and healing is possible if we believe.

Take care of yourselves and remember "Live in love and let love live in you, through you, and around you." Peace and blessings.



My Son, His Life

The Life of a Gay Father and His Son

Mr. Jhahbriel C.E. Moore-Collins Washington, D.C.

"Surprise, thought you might need a drink!" Bryant gave me that look as to say who are they. We all stood there like it was a KODAK moment. "Bryant, this is little Jamal's mother Shawanda and her new husband Antonio". " They are on their honeymoon". I was trying not to sound nervous because I knew Shawanda was watching and listening to everything I said or did. "Shawanda, this is my friend Bryant." Careful of how I was putting my words. She looked at him from head to toe. "Nice shorts," she said with a smirk on her face.

Well I knew then it was time to finish my tour of this lovely island and I was not going to let her ruin our vacation. I was actually ready to go. "Jamal, tell your mother good-bye and you will see her later." I was trying to find a breaking point so that we could move on. "Oh what is the rush, Bryant and I were just getting acquainted." She was trying to be funny and I knew what was next. "I am sure you don't need us around you on your honeymoon." "That wouldn't be fair to Antonio." Tony just stood there looking as if to say what is next. I felt somewhat sorry for him. He didn't have a clue and nor did Bryant of what Shawanda was capable of. I like to think of her as Amarelda the Queen Witch.

"Well, you are right, I have more important things to do in my honeymoon suite than stand out here with you." "Except for looking into those precious eyes of my baby boy". "Which I can do all day," she hugs little J and kisses him on the forehead. He starts to run off to play in the water. "Mama, will I see you later on?" He gives her a look only a son could give his mother. "I will call you later OK baby?" By the time she could finish her answer he was already in the water. You see, I have always wanted her to have a relationship with her son. She has always had problems dealing with me. The guilt of being an unfit mother consumed her.

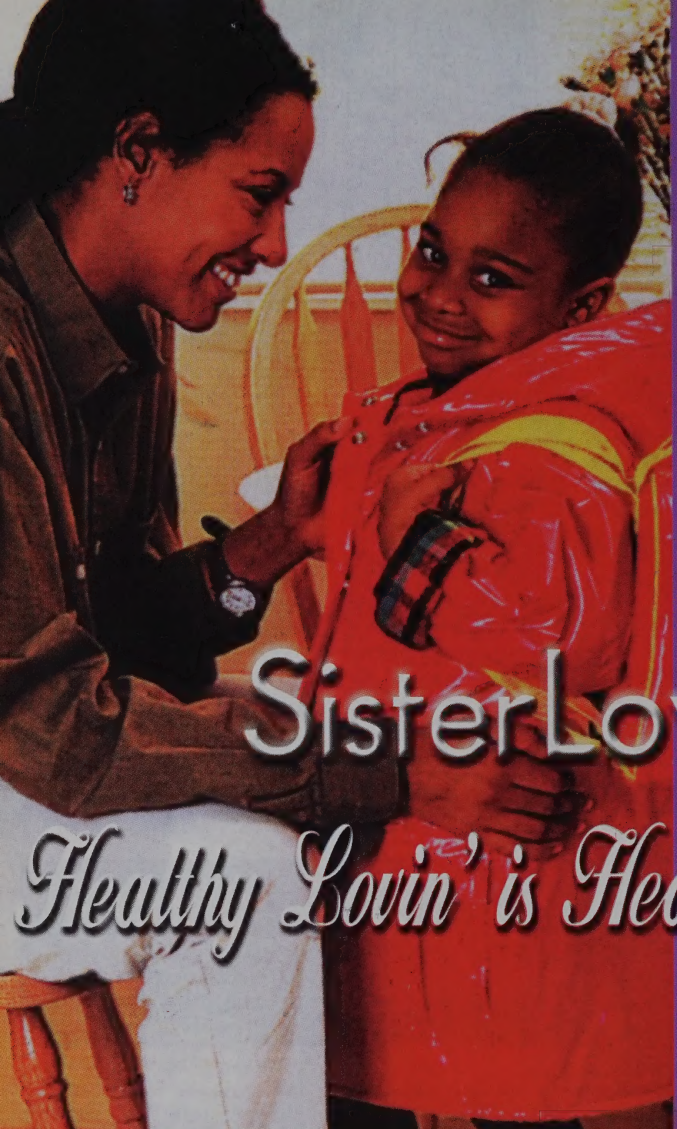
"So Bryant who are the roses for?" "You have a girlfriend here with you or....?" Bryant looked at me as I looked back at him. Not knowing what was going to come out of his mouth. Was he going to tell the truth? Was he going to back down for argument sake and lie? I didn't know what was next. Bryant's temper can be a bit much at times

"Shawanda, is your life that unimportant that you need to know by personal business." "I don't think we know each other that well." Bryant then was getting kind of tired of her remarks, I could tell. Bryant never met Shawanda but he had heard quite a bit about her via my mother, grandmother and sister. She wasn't well liked by the women in my family so; he felt he didn't have to either. "My aren't we testy." She put her towel back down on the sand and folded her arms ready to do battle. At this point, Antonio and I were kind of in the dark. We both didn't know what to expect. I was trying to leave and didn't want Bryant to get into it with her. His mouth is a lot worse than mine. "You know Bryant or whatever your name is, you are right, my life is too important to be figuring out what you two faggots are doing!"

Before I knew it, the waves on the beach got quiet. I couldn't hear anything. Bryant looked at her then looked at me and that was all she needed to say. "Let me tell you one damn thing Miss Shawanda or whatever YOUR name is this week, I don't think you want to go there with me!" "You don't know what I am or what we are!" "Why don't you just get on your broom and fly away! And start trying to be a parent; which I have been to your son for the last couple of years!" Bryant had to go there. "Oh, and what are you, the mother now," Shawanda cut her eyes at him?

At this point, Antonio is speechless and so am I. He starts getting their things together as if to say, I am not ready for this. I am just standing there wondering what was next..... TO BE CONTINUED.....

Next month....
Shawanda and Bryant finish their battle Shawanda wants to meet with Jamal over cocktails Jamal and Antonio meet in the spa.



About SisterLove:

SisterLove Is an Atlanta HIV/AIDS organization serving the specific needs of women and their children. Founded July 1989 by Da'zon Dixon, and a dedicated group of volunteers, determined to make a difference in the lives of women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

SisterLove currently serves over 200 HIV+ women and their families with a variety of services and coordinated care with other agencies.

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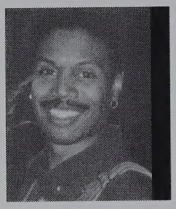
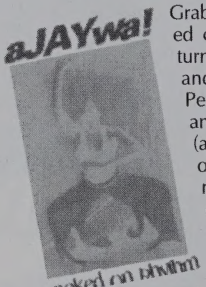


reviewed by
Malik M L Williams
atlanta, ga.

Get Hooked on aJAYwa!

"You sit all alone in a place you call home
wishing you didn't rent but could own your life."
— You Don't Hear Me, Though



Grab a glass of wine, light a scented candle, turn down the lights, turn up the CD player, sit back and get ready to be lifted. Performance artist, playwright and poet Nana Agyeiwaah Anan (aJAYwa!) is about to take you on a journey. Her new CD release, "Hooked on Rhythm," marks the solo recording debut of this gifted cultural artist. aJAYwa! delivers thought provoking, inspiring words in her rich contralto voice, lusciously layered over smooth, well-balanced tracks (composed and produced by the gifted Juan Fannin) that keep you in the flow.

This spoken word is truly art.

The seven-song set starts with Arresting Melodies, a beautiful introduction to the woman and her work as a writer. Here aJAYwa! slows the familiar hip-hop refrain of "My mic sounds nice/my mic sounds right" and blends it with sensual and sensuous original verses. It's a wonderful introduction to the woman and her words. In 3 A.M. Revelation aJAYwa! tells us clearly, "I dance to a different drum." My personal favorite is You Don't Hear Me, Though, an inspirational and individual wake-up call to quit crying into that bowl of ice cream and get out to make your own dreams come true. This is one of the smoothest and most moving tracks on a velvety set.

The rest of the collection continues with the brief Interlude, leading into We Are At War, which combine to form a thoughtful exploration of Black feminism and Black activism. Probably the most wrenching of the tracks is Against My Will a first-person narrative of date rape and a victim's struggle to maintain self-respect in the aftermath. (aJAYwa! has a one-woman show by the same title in her repertoire.) The title track Hooked On Rhythm closes out the CD with an invitation to start the set over again.

Fans of aJAYwa's live performances will appreciate having this piece in their collections. For those who have never seen or heard aJAYwa! perform, don't miss this chance to get into her flow. The bad news is this CD is an independent production, and not yet available in stores. Connoisseurs of spoken word art may obtain copies from the fledgling, nonprofit arts organization Dance to a Different Drum. (Call 404-485-4839 for details.)

As you listen, you'll find your fingers snapping, your head bobbing, and your hips swaying. But be sure to heed aJAYwa's warning: "Don't get so caught up in the flow/you don't hear me though."

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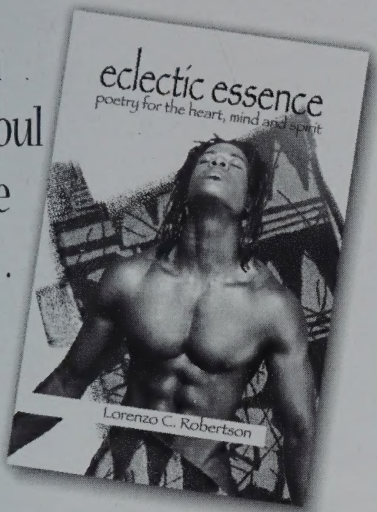
Words that touch the heart

From the soul to the soul...



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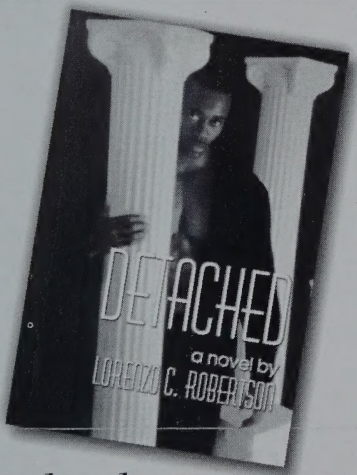

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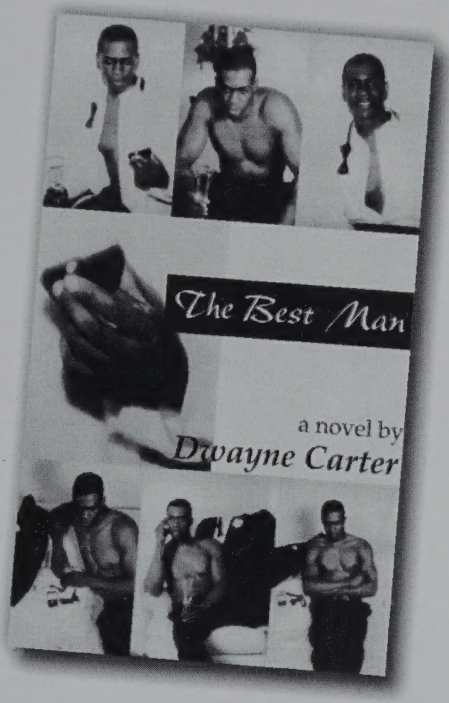

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Well, Well, Well
Spring time is here! The flowers are blooming, birds chirping, and Crunch Queens are out showing off their bodies. This is my favorite time of the year. I get to walk my sweet poodle "Peaches" hoping that one of the 3 or 4 tops in Atlanta will pass by so I can use her as an accessary to my beauty. I also get to play a little outdoor tennis at the Buckhead Country Club with my freind Donna. We love the outdoors honey! We do everything from playing tennis, to canoeing, climbing Stone Mountain with our tennis skirts on, horseback riding, child you name it. But anyway, enough about me, lets get down to business.

Dear Bianca,
I am a good looking, sensual sexy brotha of 31. I have been trying to settle down since I was 18. I am trying to figure out why I keep drawing to me men that are in a relationship, getting over a relationship or just added from a relationship. I have a good job, working on my Ph.D, work out and stay fit. I know that I am the love that I desire and I am whole and complete. I am wondering now if I will ever meet my soul mate. It seems that every brother I meet is so attached to the hurt of a past relationship; I have no way to even get my foot in the door. It seems they want one of two things, a steady sex partner or a psychotherapist. Is there anyone out there that is truly single in heart, mind and spirit? Does love for African American In the Life men mean loving the hurt of the pasting? Hanging on and giving power to those no longer in your life? I just don't get it and I very rarely hang out. I only have a few close friends. I don't know where to go to meet brothas. I let go and let God but In the Meantime...help me out Bianca, What should I do?
Frustrated and Fed up, Atlanta

Dear Frustrated and Fed up:
From the way you describe yourself, you seem to have all the qualities that anybody in there right mind would appreciate. Child believe me I can relate to how it feels to be FIERCE and single. These tired queens come from everywhere and I have to swat them down like flies on a hot summer day. Now I do have one concern. You described everything about yourself with the ecxeption of your preference. Are you a top, bottom, versatile-top, versatile-bottom, plumber, or rough-bottom. These things are essential to know for me to better serve you. So give me that bit of crucial information and I will respond to you in detail about your problem finding girl scouts or dirty trade next month.
Good Luck with your self-evaluation!
Bianca

Dear Bianca,
I am a hairstylist with a really big crush on one of my clients. The problem is that I know that he is in a relationship because he always discusses his problems with me. I've met his lover and I can't stand him because he has somebody that I want. He doesn't seem happy at all and I think that he is really eager to get out of this relationship. I am losing my mind trying to wait for that bitch to slip up. How can I speed up the process?
Anxious, New Orleans

Dear Anxious:
Its queens like you us good girls have to look out for. Did you ever think that there is always two sides to a story. He is telling you all his problems and I bet that he brings it to you like he is the innocent party. Bitch please! You couldn't be old enough to be reading this magazine.

Write Bianca Today!

You must do hair out of your kitchen, huh! Put your daddy's book where you got it from and go in there and clean up that damn room you Sloppy HO!
Don't write me no mo!
Bianca

Dear Bianca,
I am a bi-sexual female and I've been dating a butch lesbian for about three years now. My dilemma is that as much as I love the person that I am with, I have desires to be with a man. I am afraid to ask her how she would feel about us having a threesome with a man because she really acts like she hates men. Our sex life is suffering and I believe that it is because of me and my unfulfilled fantasy. What should I do?
Miserable, Memphis

Dear Miserable:
You horny little kitten! You need some plumbing done thats all. Be open and honest with your spouse. All relationships should be that way. She might surprise you and whip it out from some place that she kept secret. Now wouldn't that be your dream come true! Take it from an alcoholic dick addict, giiirl you don't know what you missing. Now I'm not trying to imply that you should cheat on your mate, but if that bitchnigga don't understand, then you might want to think about whats more important to you. You can continue a sexually unsatisfying relationship, or you can skip around town glowing. When they ask you what you use for your skin, you can simply tell them that you switched from MAC products to SD(Strictly Dickly) skin conditioner and exfoliates.
Your Welcome!, Bianca

Cycle Continues On Page 32

recalled getting angry about something. He sat there on the edge of William's bed as tears began to roll down his face. It hit him like a death in the family. The tears poured and poured. His whole body began to shake. He remembered.....

As Craig and Silas sat in the car in wet clothes and some towels that he had in his trunk, the radio talked of dangerous rain storms. The two sat in silence. They were driving through the city, still a little distance from Craig's house. Then out of nowhere Silas unleashed a dragon.

"I'm positive, yo." It really didn't register with Craig. He continued driving. "Say what, Red?"

"I'm....positive."

"You positive about what?"

"No, nigga, I'm positive. You know HIV positive" Craig immediately screeched on brakes! His heart raced.

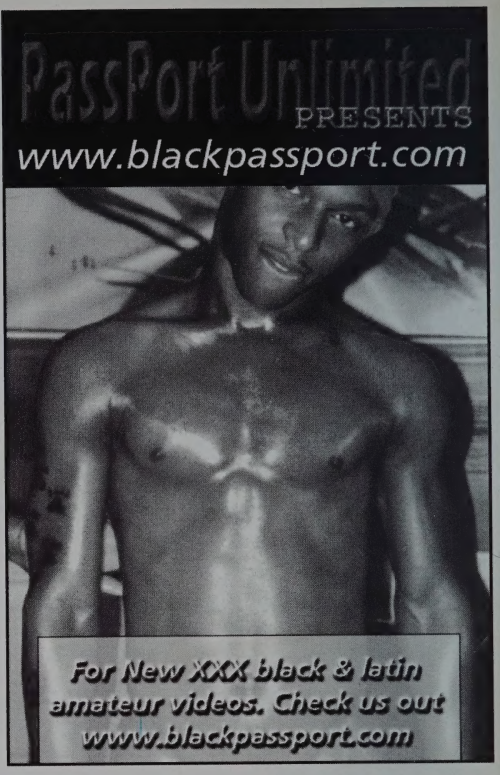
"Get out!!!! Get the fuck out!"

"I wore a condom!"

"GET OUT!!!!!GET OUUUUUTTTT!!!!!!" he yelled with the look of Satan in his eyes. Silas quickly unlocked the door and jumped out. Craig sped off, leaving Silas standing in the rain in the middle of nowhere. The rain pouring on his face blended with the tears that fell from his eyes as he watched Craig speed off.

Craig sat on the edge of the bed. "He was HIV positive," he cried to himself, over and over again. "....and I let him fuck me...."

Stay tuned to next month....



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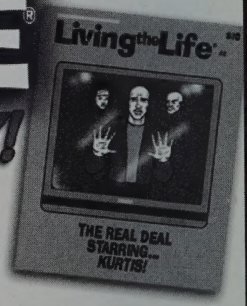

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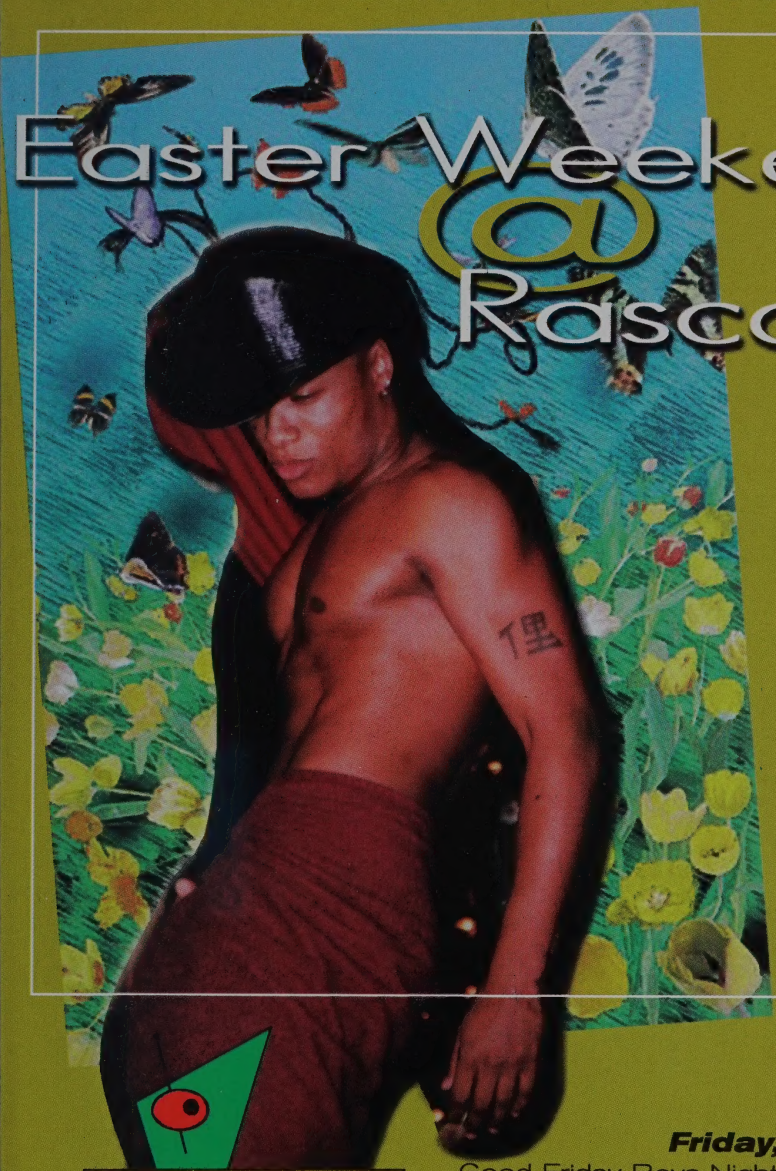

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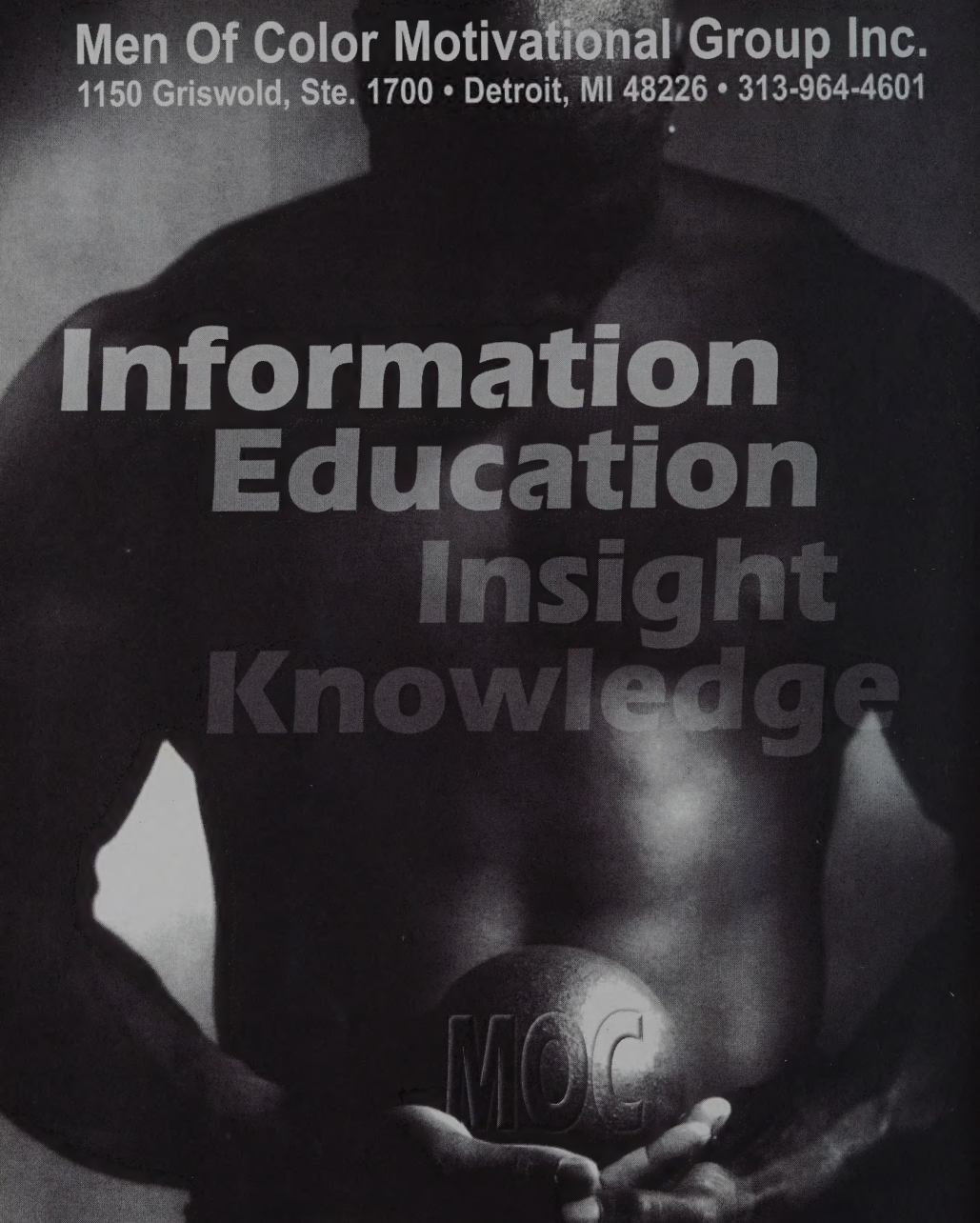

MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.

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Interview • Swimwear • Talent

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For pageant information contact

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Jasmine Bonet Says

Thank You!

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thanks each and everyone for their contributions on my benefit show which was held Wednesday March 22 @ Traxx Warehouse.

That evening over $3800.00 was raised and over the course of three weeks a grand total of $5100.00 came through the hands and hearts of many of my supporters and loved ones. I am forever grateful for all the love and support you all have shown, both near and far.

I want to take this opportunity to thank as many people as possible: Much thanks for all the cards and gifts from across the state. Thanks to the staff and owners of Traxx who opened their doors as well as their hearts for little ole' me. To cast: Stasha, Neisha, Raquell, Necole, Monte, and R'Darius thanks very much.

Special thanks to the host and hostesses Dominique, Joe Jackson, and Sophia for a spirit filled phenomenal time.

Special thanks to the ones who took an extra step to insure that I would make my quota: Ken, Dallas, Marcus, Craig, Randy, John, and all the ones who's names I have never known. And last but certainly not least the Totally Professional Catering Service-Dwanna Deal and Frederick Lee and their staff for their generous contribution; it will never be forgotten.

Thanks to Clikque Magazine for giving me the opportunity to express my thanks to all of you in such a wonderful and professional way.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Bonet

The entire Clikque family would like to express our sincere love and prayers for Jasmine Bonet at this time. We and the community have been touched by your beauty and humble spirit. It is a pleasure to know you. The love you have shown to your "family" and us is the reason why we return that love to you now. All the best to you and we will always love you and be here for you. Peace and Blessings.

MR. & MISS traxx 2000

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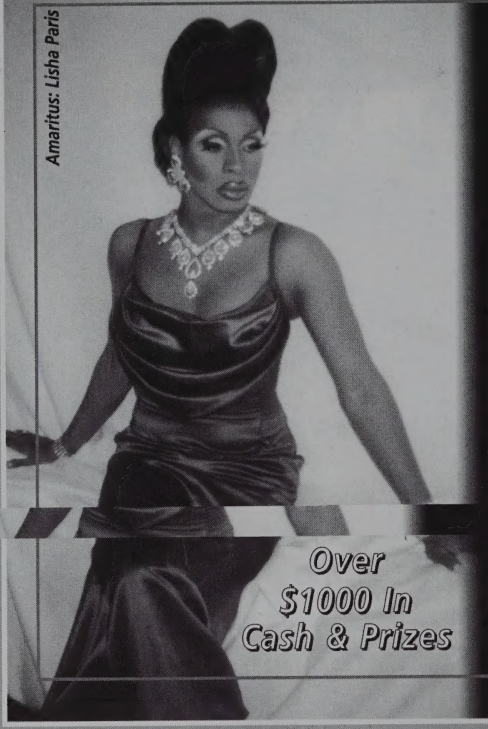

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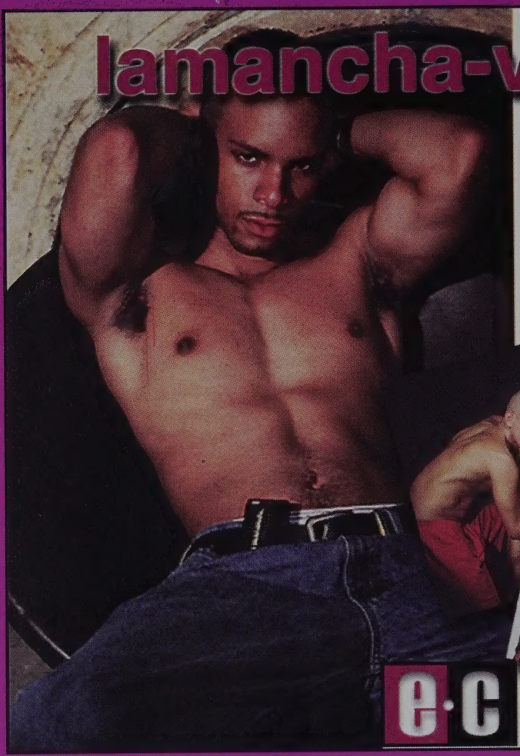

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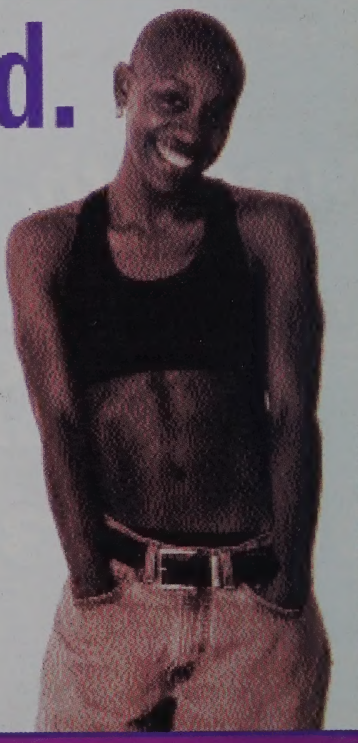

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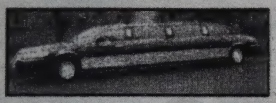
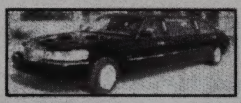
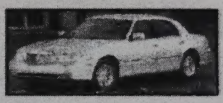
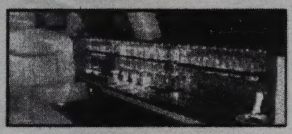
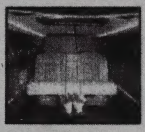

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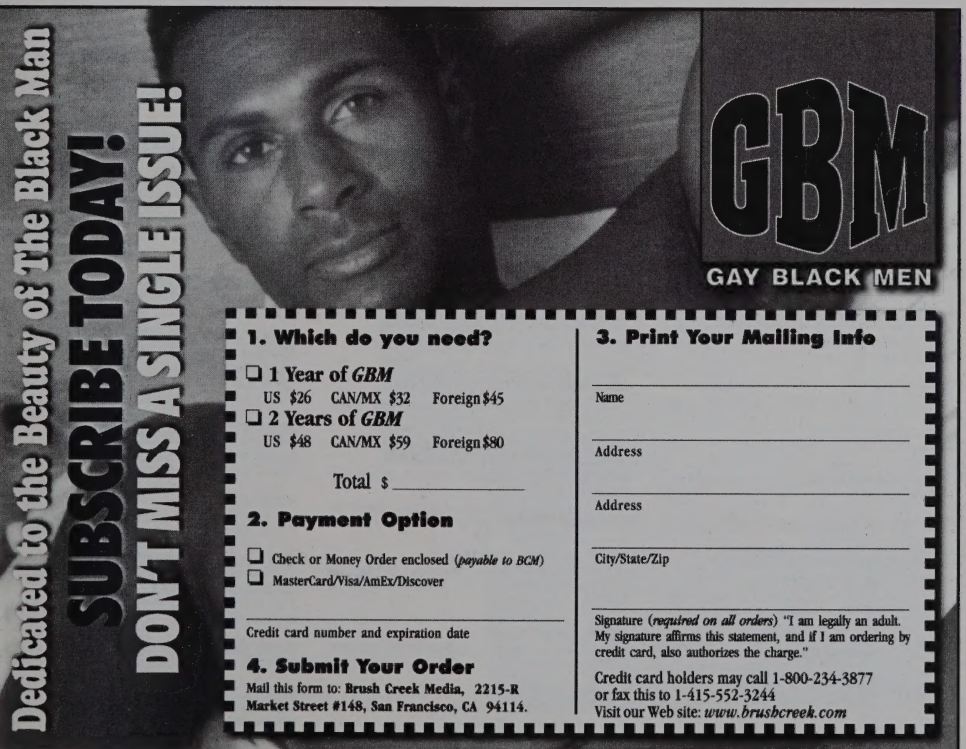

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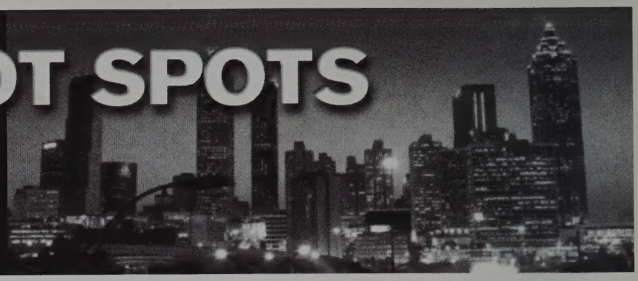

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed here.

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THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THE SEQUEL
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CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

HOUSTON, TX

INCOGNITO- THE CLUB
2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS THE NIGHTCLUB
1318 Westheimer, 713-942-CLUB. Mostly Black Thursdays - Sundays from 10PM.

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901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

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834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

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215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays.

ESCUELITA
301 West 39th St. (Corner of 8th Ave.) 212-631-0588. Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

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141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

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745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS
536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmond's African-American Club of True Diversity.

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CLUB PARK AVENUE
115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

BROTHERS
926 West Tharpe Street, 850-386-2399. Black Nights-Fridays & Saturdays.

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1104 8th St. S.E., 202-544-1931.Black Men Dancing Thursday thru Saturday.

CLUB DIVERSITE
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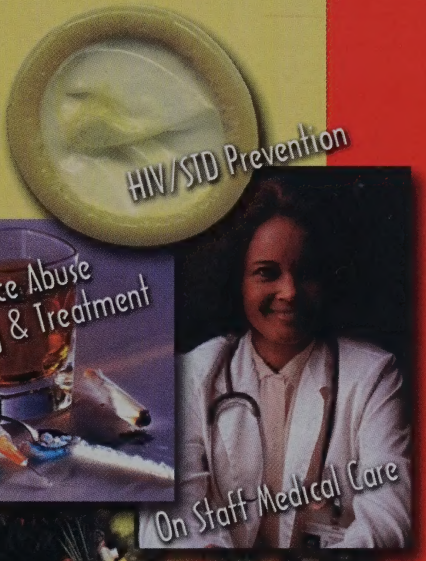
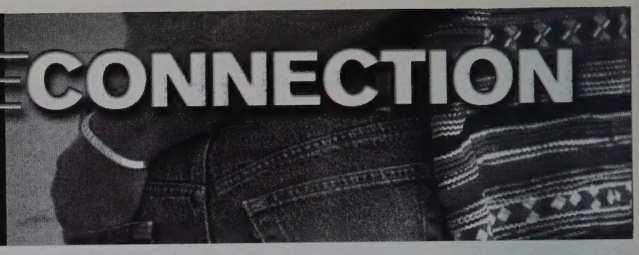


CLIKQUE CONNECTION
Personals



MEN: CALL 1-800-546-MENN FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL

Georgia

FUN THAT'S IT African-American Male, enjoys sports, movies, hanging out. Seeking Male to have fun with. #14094

BIG GUY Kevin is a 33-year-old African-American Male, honest. Seeking cool, down-to-earth, honest, masculine Male, for friendship. (Atlanta) #15633

DAVID ON THE LINE GBM, 5'11", medium build, nice lips, attractive, bottom seeking H/BM, for casual dating and sharing good times. We can kick it if we are right for each other. (Atlanta) #14958

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP POSSIBLE I am for real. GBM, 28, very attractive looking for a possible partner and long-term relationship. If you are serious and are commitment-minded let's see if we are right for each other. No fats or femmes. (Atlanta) #14285

MATURE WELL-TOOLED Mature very-pretty TV pre-op TS seeking loving, versatile oral top who can help me be a real Woman. You will be pleased. (Savannah) #14299

NO STRINGS ATTACHMENT GWM, 23, seeking GM, under 25, race is open, for sexual good times. Does this sound good to you? If so drop me a message. (Atlanta) #14757

LOW FADE GBM Rick is a GBM, 23, dark skin, 5'10", 155 lbs, very masculine, very professional seeking a buddy who desires a new friend. Our relationship would be purely platonic. I am in a committed relationship and all that is wanted is a new friend to share some fun times together. #10053

BROTHER WANTS TO CHILL SBM, 5'9", 148 lbs, 24, discreet, bottom is seeking for a friend, Brother, top who wants more than a sexual relaltionship. We can have some great times together, let's try to connect. (College Park) #14401

Illinois

35-YEAR-OLD BIWM seeking Male for sexual experiences only. #17579

WRITER 27-year-old BM, 5'8", 179 lbs., enjoys having fun, hanging out, dancing, writing, movies, music. Seeking Male with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) #17383

MICHAEL J. FOX TYPE WANTED Joe is a 46-year-old Male, brown/brown, goatee, moderately hairy, enjoys movies, music, dancing, dining out, quiet evenings. Seeking boyish Michael J. Fox type Male, 40-50, must be down-to-earth, stable, monogamous, n/s. (Chicago) #15939

NEW TO CHICAGO Carlos is a HM, 5'11", black/green. Seeking a new friend to show him around the city. (Chicago) #15664

GIMME A CALL James is a 25-year-old GBM, versatile, open, good-humored, enjoys bowling, cooking, dancing, good sex, parties. Seeking GBM for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) #15356

IS THIS YOU? 18-year-old Male, 5'11", 155 lbs., black/brown, enjoys music, intelligent conversation, having fun. Seeking Male with similar interests. (Chicago) #15217

SINCERE, DOWN-TO-EARTH, HONEST GBM, 38, enjoys bowling, walking, music, movies seeking similar Male who has similar likes. Let's try to connect and see where it goes. (Chicago) #14646

LIKES ORDER IN LIFE John is a GWM, casual, laidback, cool Guy, not into the bar scene. ISO counterpart who would like to find out more about me, please give me a call. (Chicago) #13286

Michigan

ROMANCE African-American Male, 6'3", healthy HIV+, employed, enjoys reading, music, people, movies. Seeking B/WM, light smoker, social drinker, to show him the romantic side of life. (Detroit) #17639

WESTERN SUBURBS CHICAGO Big bear Larry, 6'3", 260 lbs, very hairy, seeking other bears or cubs for cuddling. If you fit this bill give me a call and see where it goes. #10684

WHAT'S UP FELLAS Attractive GBM, 18, 6'1", 220 lbs, 44" chest, intelligent, mature, employed ISO GBM, 25-45, who enjoys the finer things in life. If this sounds like you give me a call, you will be pleased. (Detroit) #14498

New York

LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER GWM, 42, very handsome, muscular ISO counterpart who is interested in a new friend. Many possibilities exist for a great friendship. (NYC) #14845

HOT TIME IN BIG APPLE GWM, 6'2", 185 lbs, black/brown, 8" enjoys all sports, seeking GM, age and race open, for threesome, foursome or whatsome. Give me a call. (New York City) _14810

Tennessee

NEW TO MEMPHIS Chad is 6'1", 180 lbs., blonde/blue. Seeking Male for fun times. (Memphis) #17485

HOT BOY Ex-model GBM, 5'11", brown skin, seeking brother that good times can be shared with. I am nice to be around and you will have a good time. Give me a holler. (Memphis) #14729

MATURE, STOCKY, SOLID GBM, 5'9", 285 lbs, dark skin, open-minded, very loving seeking counterpart that is willing to try a new experience that could develop into a solid relationship. All serious inquiries will be answered. Willing to relocate. #15818

Texas

KEEP IT ON THE DL Dallas is a 26-year-old BM, 6'0", 195 lbs., medium build, medium complexion, low hair-cut, mustache, very attractive, bottom, enjoys movies, bowling, quiet times. Seeking gentle, masculine, discreet, aggressive top Male, with similar interests. (Dallas) #15022

VERY ATTRACTIVE BOTTOM Are you a hot Boy? GBM, 21, intelligent, very attractive, 5'8", 140 lbs, seeking hot, horny BM, bottom. Let's do it. (Dallas) #14929

WILLIAM, 24, MEDIUM build, blonde is seeking a friend to have some new experiences with. If you are dependable, fun-loving, honest and enjoy good times then I am the Man for you. (Texas) #14787

STRICTLY A TOP John, 5'8", 170 lbs, light brown skin, 35, SBM, top, very outgoing, fun to be around enjoys going out, movies, clubs ISO counterpart who knows how to take care of his Man. If this sound good to you, give me a holler. (Dallas) #14417

Virginia

CONSIDERED ATTRACTIVE 28-yeasr-old GWM, 6'0", 170 lbs., black/hazel, 32" waist, very attractive. Seeking straight-acting/appearing Male. #17546

FIRST TIME Attractive WM, 6'0", 190 lbs, curious. Seeking an aggressive, good-looking, slim, uncut Male, for first time experience. (Chesterfield) #15741

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Florida

BI-CURIOUS, MARRIED FEMALE Bi-curious, Married Female seeking an intelligent, educated, open-minded, soft, pretty, discreet, sexy, disease/drug-free, bi-curious Female, for safe fun. (Miami) #16906

Georgia

VERY, VERY ROMANTIC 32-year-old WF, 5'7", 140 lbs., brown/hazel, very romantic, enjoys the outdoors, long walks, movies, dancing, sports, music, cooking, candle light dinners, wine, fireplaces. Seeking Female with similar interests, for possible relationship. (Homerville) #17537

WHERE ARE YOU? 22-year-old Female, 5'2", 125 lbs. Seeking Female 25-32, medium to thick build, no children. _15416

Michigan

TOMBOYISH FEMALE Very attractive, 29-year-old GBF, 5'7", 130 lbs., light complexion, n/s, n/drinker, enjoys bowling, playing pool, shopping, theater, dining out. Seeking feminine, SF 24-32, , no taller than 5'5", no heavier than 165 lbs., no more than one child, very independent, n/s, for friendship, possible relationship. (Detroit) #17609

VARIETY OF COLORS 32-year-old African-American PF. Seeking an erotic, n/s, n/drinker, passionate, passive, Female who is a good lover, with a variety of colors, for erotic fun and passion. #15349

THICK AND WANTS FRIEND BF, 21, 5'2", 150 lbs, seeking friend who wants a new Gal pal in her life. Let's see if we can make it work. (Detroit) #17005

COULD IT BE YOU? GBF, 36-ish, seeking a Lesbian friend. If we are right for each other a promising future is ahead for us. No Bi's. Please give me a call. (Detriolt) _17085

FUN-LOVING FEMALE, early-20s, sincere, honest. Seeking Female, for friendship. (Detroit) #16698

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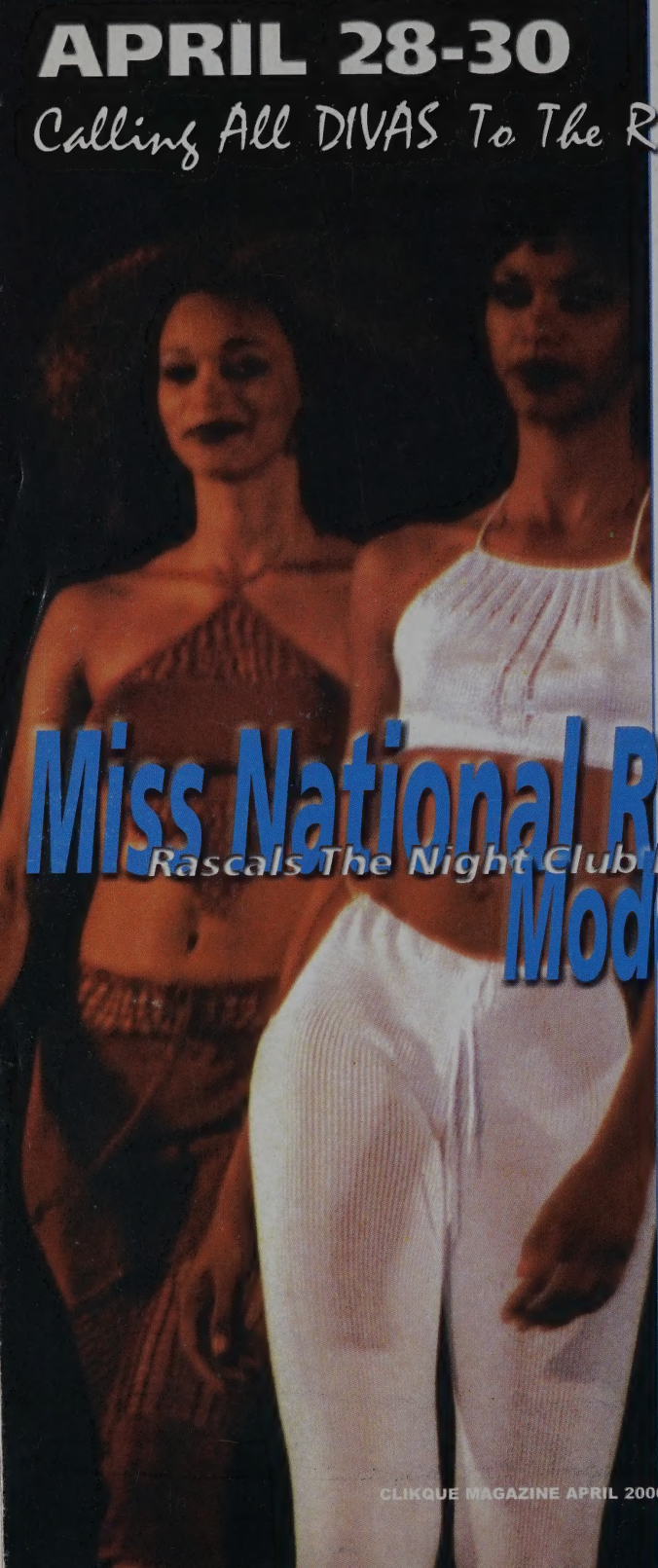

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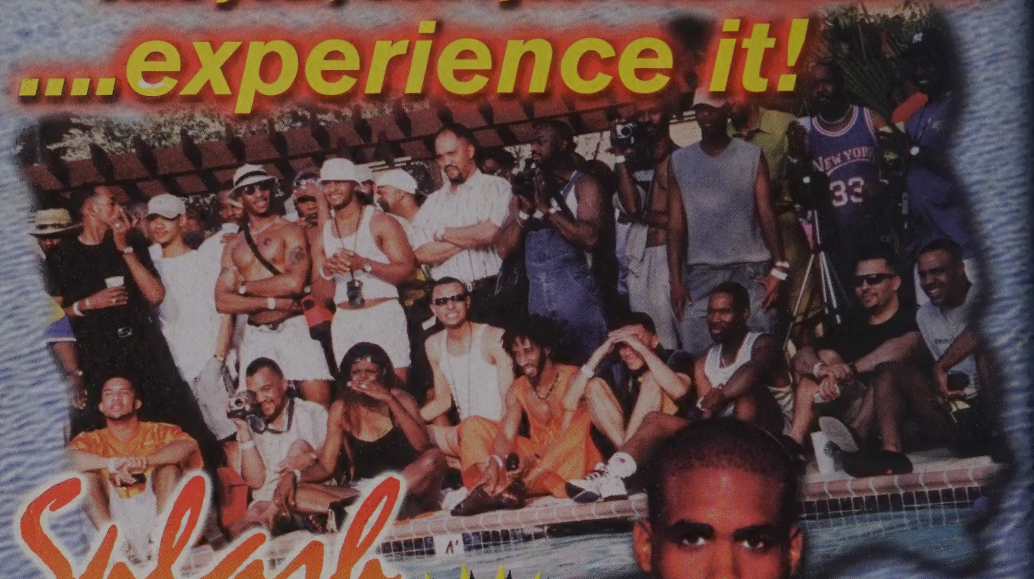

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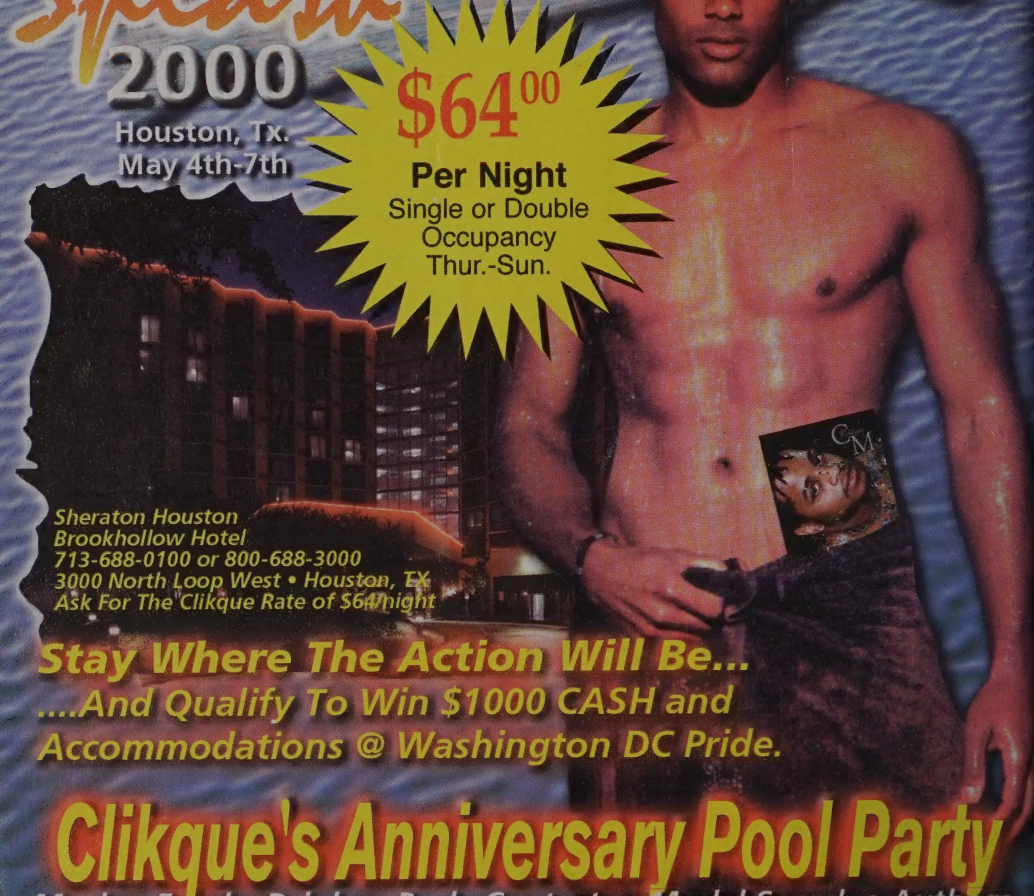

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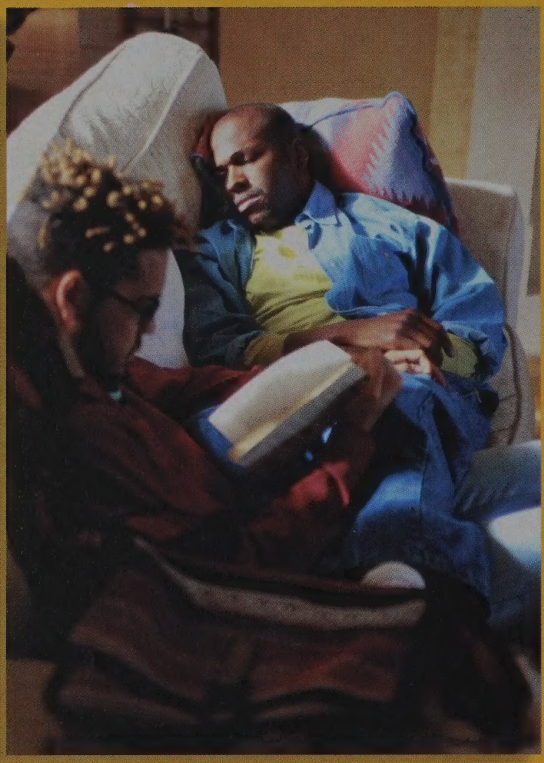

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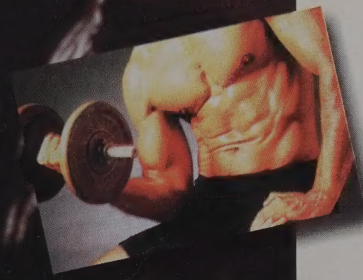

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Program for Wellness Restoration
Journalist - Muscle Media, POZ, Positively Aware
Co-author, "Built to Survive"

Nelson Vergel - Executive Director,
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Co-author, "Built to Survive"

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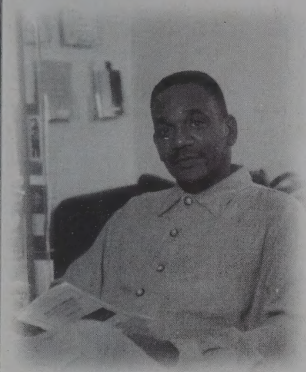
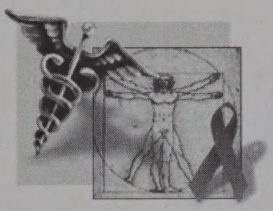


Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: February 24,2000 reporting from the Southwestern Front; Dallas, Texas. The first Black (African American History Month) of the new Millennium is drawing to a close and I think this is a good time for us as African American Eu-men (MIM - men-who-are-intimate-with-other-men) to take a close look at ourselves and our legacy.

HIV/AIDS has, is and will continue to have a devastating impact on our lives for the foreseeable future. As I write this the 2nd National Conference on African Americans and AIDS is taking place in our nation's capitol. I was not able to attend the conference this year but Renaissance III staff members Ursula Traylor and Christopher Newsome are there to give and receive knowledge and expertise so that we may do a better job of helping our brothers and sisters impacted by this viral holocaust: HIV. I want to give kudos to Bristol Myers Squibb - Immunology and John Hopkins University for undertaking this effort to bring people together to address the epidemic in the African American community. Ms. Traylor, the Associate Director of Renaissance III, said that the Rev. Jesse Jackson gave an impassioned and fiery speech to the conference attendees this morning. And if Ms. Traylor says that took place then I must believe that Jesse lit the troops up this day.



Last year and this year millions of dollars are being poured into the African American community to educate about, prevent the spread of and assist our people living with HIV/AIDS. I implore each and every one of you to find out who is doing what with your money and hold them accountable for every penny. Each community has what is called a Ryan White Health Services Planning Council and/or a HIV Prevention Planning group. All you have to do is call your city, county, state or federal elected official and ask them who has been given money to help our people fight HIV/AIDS. They will be more than happy to tell you. If they cannot then please give me a call. They will be more than sad to tell me. Once you find out who is doing what please become involved. Contribute your time, your voice, your sweat, your money, your name, your talents and see the actual manifestation of the African philosophy of "It takes a village". It will take a village of us working together, despite our differences and disagreements, to put an end to this HIV viral holocaust that is threatening to wipe out a generation of Black people in America and has wiped out a substantial portion of a generation of Black people in Africa. This HIV/AIDS thing is no joke. All of our butts are out on the line! And each and everyone of us need to be conducting our affairs and responding as if they are! Ask not what somebody can do to help you; ask what you can do to help somebody.

This brings me closer to homebase: African American Eu-men (MIM - men-who-are-intimate-with-other-men). Those of us forty and over did not grow up and come into manhood during the age of HIV. I find it difficult to imagine being a Eu-man growing up and coming into manhood in the late eighties and nineties and having this specter of death (AIDS) hanging over my head like the Sword of Damocles. I can only imagine how constricted, painful, frightening and fragile life must appear and be for young African American Eu-men. To have the joy, pleasure and exhilaration of sexual intimacy with another wrapped in the threat of a protracted death and sealed in latex is unconscionable. I can feel my young brothers pain. I also sense a backlash against my generation for being the perpetrators and spreaders of this virus among our younger brothers regardless of how untrue that might be. There is a growing rift between the 40+ African American Eu-men generation and the 30 and below generation. In the fight to overcome the HIV epidemic this rift is self-defeating.

Older mature African American Eu-men must begin to become involved not only in the fight to overcome the HIV epidemic but also in the positive development of our younger brothers. This sickening business of seeing our younger African American Eu-men as sexual objects and youthful prizes to strut the social scene with must come

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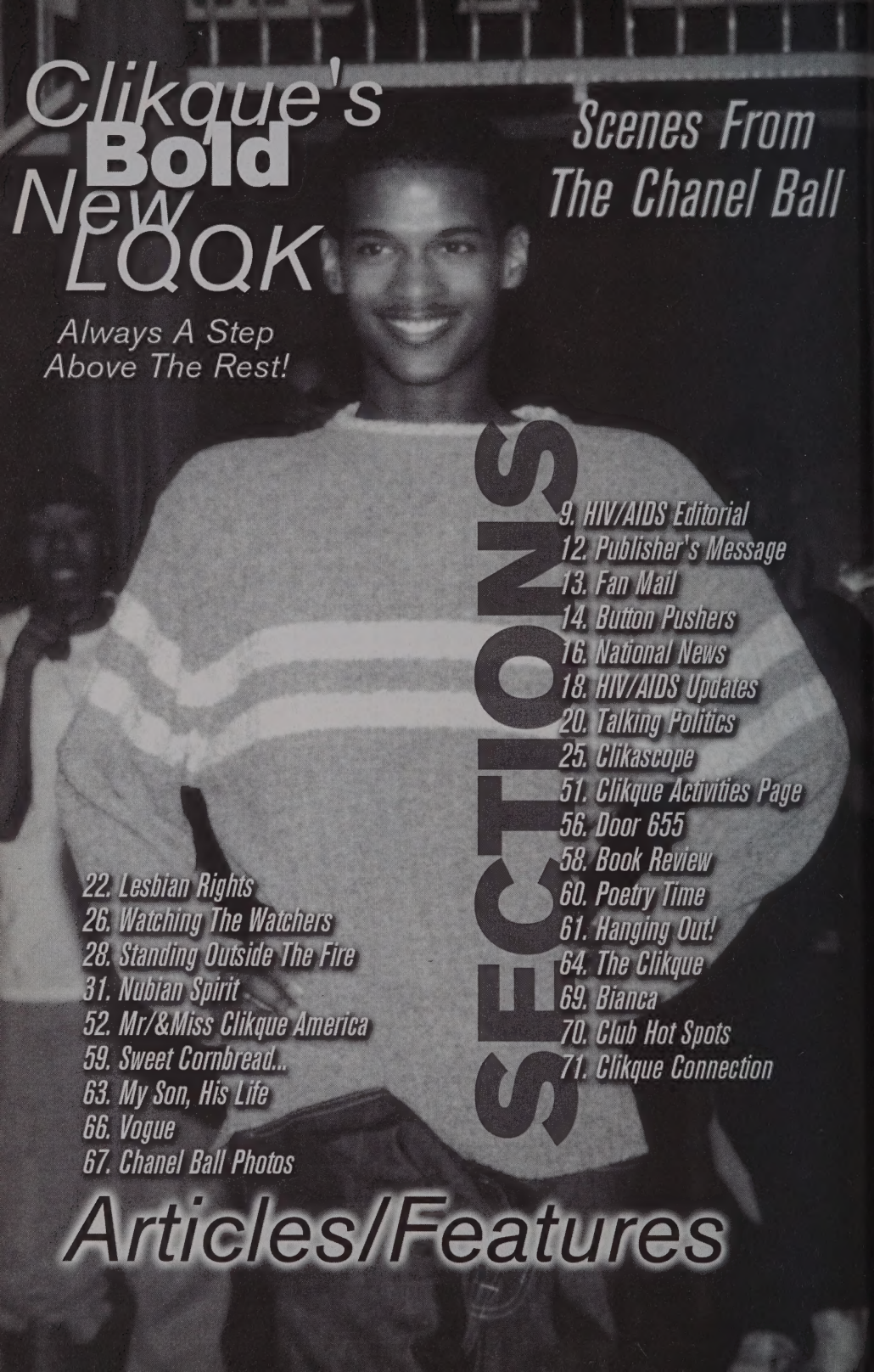
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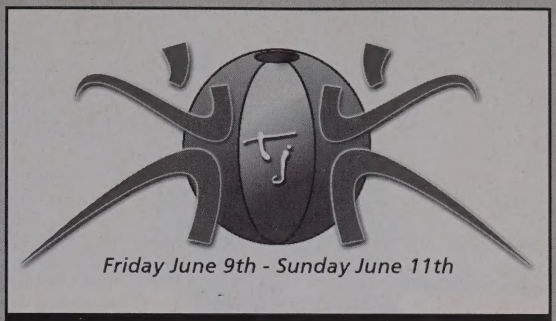

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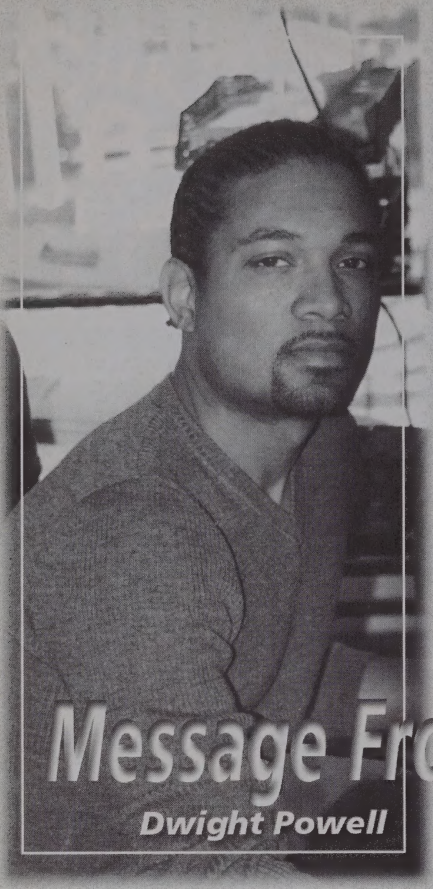


Message From The Publisher

Dwight Powell

Hello Friends. I am very proud to offer you this issue of Clikque Magazine. We are steadily approaching our 2nd year anniversary, and as you can see, we are continuing to evolve, offering a respectable, quality publication. A publication that truly respects the integrity of our same gender loving community of color.

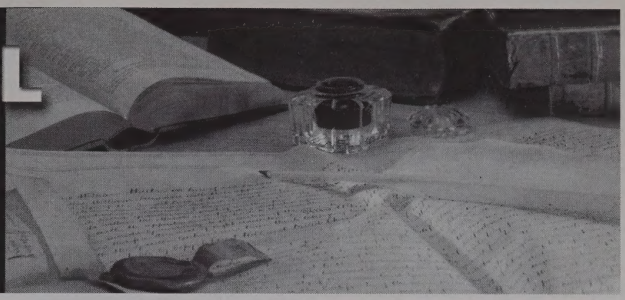
This month I would like to discuss with you two things, loyalty and commitment. Since starting this magazine in Houston almost two years ago, I have noticed quite a few disturbing aspects about our community. It amazes me how quick we are to shun the "old" and chase after the new, the improved, all that's perceived to be "better". Please don't get me wrong, I encourage and endorse change. More often than not, it's those changes that make for the betterment and growth of what was. What I don't endorse nor encourage, however, is the notion that it's OK to "drop" what was that has supported us along the way. Such changes are even far less glorified, at least in my eyes, when the initiators are not in support of people that look like me.

Let me share with you two recent encounters. A little over two years ago, a few black club promoters brought a new Friday night atmosphere to the city of Atlanta. An atmosphere that it had been needing for quite some time. Finally, a respectable place where people of African decent could hangout, relax, and meet people that were intuned with their morals, ideals and values. A place where the management truly respected and valued it's patrons. For a while, it was said by many, to be the hippest spot in Atlanta on Friday nights. Things were going great until a few months ago when the club's clientele decided that they needed a change. Something better or different...maybe. Like I said before, change doesn't have to be a bad thing. Ironically, the African-American party-goers began to frequent another establishment that traditionally catered to a mostly white clientele. There's nothing wrong with the departure, or the fact that such an establishment was considered over a more familiar one. In fact, I too wanted to see what all the fuss and excitement was about. What was this place that would make the "Kids" want to abandon their comfort zone.

I noticed many things upon entering this newly found "paradise". I passed the bar lined with many of the brothers that I had previously seen at the other establishment, two observations stood out to me: The fact that none of the staff shared my ethnicity, and the porn stars on the monitors were all White or Latino (talk about insensitive). At the time, I remember questioning myself whether I was the only one taking notice of this. The next day I decided to call upon the management seeking their support for a product that supports my brothers whom supported them the night before. No such luck, management said that they would not support an African American publication. Another premier drag establishment on Friday nights in Atlanta told me straight-up,"...we don't target that market". I was speechless and dumfounded, especially since nearly 80% of it's patrons and almost 100 percent of the entertainers are African American. Do these businesses value you as a client or are you just dollar signs in their eyes?

Please forgive me if I am coming across a little harsh. Simply, bothers me to see how quick we are to jump-ship from businesses that uplift, build and support our community to those that really don't give a damn. What's even more disappointing to me is that when we see the insensibilities, and inferior treatment and service, we continue to come back for a second serving of the same.

As the old saying goes, all good things must come to an end, or do they? Old things don't necessarily have to end, with your support, commitment, participation and feedback, you can evoke change. The kind of change that uplifts, and encourages growth... and can bring about "better". So that you won't have to seek happiness via businesses that probably don't appreciate you and your patronage. There aren't many black businesses around and there are reasons for that. The main reason resulting from lack of support and neglect. I have always been a huge advocate of supporting those that support me and my same gender loving community of African decent. I encourage you to do the same. While many new things may seem great, they're not necessarily for the betterment, upliftment and growth of our community.



FANMAIL
Letters to the Editor

Please send all Letter to the Editor to: clikque@aol.com or on line at www.clikque.com

I would like to congratulate the entire staff of Clikque magazine for a job well done. When I say this, I must stress the fact that Mr. Powell's publication respects the image of the gay/lesbian community. I enjoy the many interesting articles and tasteful pictures.... Continue to do good work!"

E/G in Atl

In response to reading a recent issue of Clikque, never have I been so impressed with material created by and for "our" people. Far from the typical 'bar rag' (no names mentioned- ok, what the heck, "HX" & "Next") your magazine sacrificed much of the unnecessary 'male beefcake' for interesting and thought-provoking articles. This showed me how concerned , Clikque has become with the progression of both Gays and African-Americans and how it no longer wishes to stagnate our lifestyle. I myself am an upwardly mobile, 28 y.o., African-American male. Both educated and well traveled, I work in an arts related field and am efficient in many forms of production and special events. Though this letter comes in honor of you and not myself, know that you can contact me should you ever be in need of any kind of assistance. My information you will find below. In closing, the work that you have done and are continuing to do is very important to our community. Please continue your efforts.

Jason Warley, New York

I live in Seattle, Washington and I just discovered your magazine the other day. I can't tell you how overjoyed I was to see a magazine targeted to Black gay men. I was beginning to give up hope that there would ever be anything for us. There's certainly nothing for us in Seattle. I wish you all the best with this effort because we need it! I'm looking forward to the next issue!

Eric Parsons, Seattle, Wa

Just wanted to drop support your way for a very nice magazine. As an avid reader of everything, it's always amazed me that few quality magazines for people of color seem to exist (my opinion). Very refreshing when I saw yours.

Charles Kemp, Nashville, TN.

Well, So far so good, I love the magazine. I consider myself one the kids that just checks the scene and observes. I have been keeping up with your magazine since it's debut and I am still a frequent reader (yes I do read the articles). However, I was slightly saddened when the magazine decide to hit it to Atl. I am a native Houstonian and I thought that your magazine was just the boost that our black gay community needed to add some flare. I mean we always hear how hot it is in Atl, and for a long time I always felt that Houston needed to sizzle. I do appreciate that you have managed to keep Houston a direct source of "tea" and pics for Queen Scene or vice versa.

Prince Charles, Texas

Thanks for the 'life' line!! Clikque Magazine has become an invaluable resource to me and my friends as we plan travel related social activities. I personally look forward to each issue to catch up on things that I missed around the country, and to be challenged to think about issues and opinions that I might not have otherwise. I am heartened to find that Clikque Magazine is raising the bar and setting the standard for what we can expect from media publishers who appeal to our particular audience.

Way to go!!

Just wanted to let you all know that I like your material, it is very interesting. I normally do not like to read anything that relates to the "gay community", however this reading is different and I like it. I would like to subscribe but I'm having financial problems at this time (just brought a house and a new car). Once I am stable again, just look forward to being a subscriber.

Kareem J.

B4 I start to complain, let me first start out by saying THANKS. Thanks for providing the gay, lesbian and trans-gender community a publication like Clikque. Now myself and many others here in Chicago would like to know; where were you guys Thanksgiving Weekend? I almost never go out and decided I would that weekend because "Clikque" would be in town. You were no where to be found. NO Release Party, NO Cover Model Contest. What happened?....

Eddie Meeks III, Chicago

Hello I'm an 18 year old male living in Memphis Tn.
I wanted to tell you that I think that your magazine is very interesting because it is not only for the GAY or Bi sexual people. There are a variety of things and articles and a lot of interesting issues in the magazine . I was just letting you know that I really enjoy the magazine.

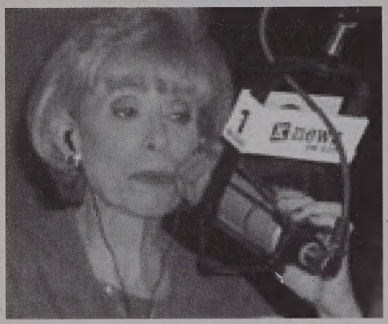
Desmond Dupree , Memphis

As I browsed my way in Giovanni's bookstore in Philly I came across your publication for the first time. I purchased it and read it and I think that it is a good publication for those of us who are same gender loving men/women.

Via Email

BUTTONPUSHERS
Clikque Magazine

Laura Schlessinger To Come Into Your Home This Fall



She's been sending her messages of hate via radio. Now Paramount is ready to bring her into your living rooms. Few things are certain when it comes to Dr. Laura Schlessinger's upcoming TV show.

What is sure: Paramount Television Group is developing and syndicating the show, set to air this fall.

No-nonsense advice dispenser "Dr. Laura" is well known for the anti-gay message she preaches on her radio talk show, broadcast on more than 400 stations to 18 million listeners weekly.

The format of the hour-long TV program remains unclear, but that hasn't stopped TV stations in 90 percent of the country's markets from snapping it up, sight unseen.

That has gays who work at Paramount, including the co-creator one of the studio's most popular TV shows, hopping mad.

"I am outraged," fumed David Lee, openly gay executive producer and co-creator of the highly successful sitcom "Frasier," from his car on the way to the studio.

"I have created, written or produced material for Paramount in excess of a billion dollars," he said, "and I'm not the only gay person at Paramount who has contributed greatly.

"I think it's outrageous that Paramount chooses to air a woman who is, I think, literally dangerous to the gay community. She may not go out there with a club in her hand, but she is providing a petri dish where hatred can grow."

Laura's Views:

Rights. Rights? Rights! For sexual deviant, ... sexual behavior there are now rights. That's what I'm worried about with the pedophilia and the bestiality and the sado-masochism and the cross-dressing. Is this all going to be "rights" too, to deviant sexual behavior. It's deviant sexual behavior. Why does deviant sexual behavior get rights?

ON GAYS AND PEDOPHILIA:
Well, according to Dr. Aarden VanWeg, an expert in homosexuality and other forms of deviant sexual behavior in Holland, that although numerically there are more pedophiles that are heterosexual, percentage-wise in a population, it's much greater in the homosexual community. So there is some relationship. No, not every homosexual is a pedophile—obviously not—but it's a greater percentage—much greater.

How many letters have I read on the air from gay men who acknowledge that a huge portion of the male homosexual populace is predatory on young boys?

ON GAY PRIDE MONTH AND LESBIAN MOTHERHOOD:
Two things I want to bring to your attention. One, about two weeks ago, our esteemed President Clinton called June a whole month of celebration of homosexuality. Is he nuts? By the way, there is no month celebrating heterosexuality. There is no such month. ...

He wants us to celebrate that it is a sad state of affairs, in my opinion, that there are some people who cannot or will not commune with members of the opposite sex in an intimate way and be married and make children in families.

That men have to have sex with men is not something to celebrate. It's a sadness. It is a sadness, and there are therapies which have been successful in helping a reasonable number of people become heterosexual.

ON GAY MARRIAGE:
Do you people realize that in Vermont and Massachusetts they are trying to change the definition of marriage from a man and a woman in the sight of God to any two people?

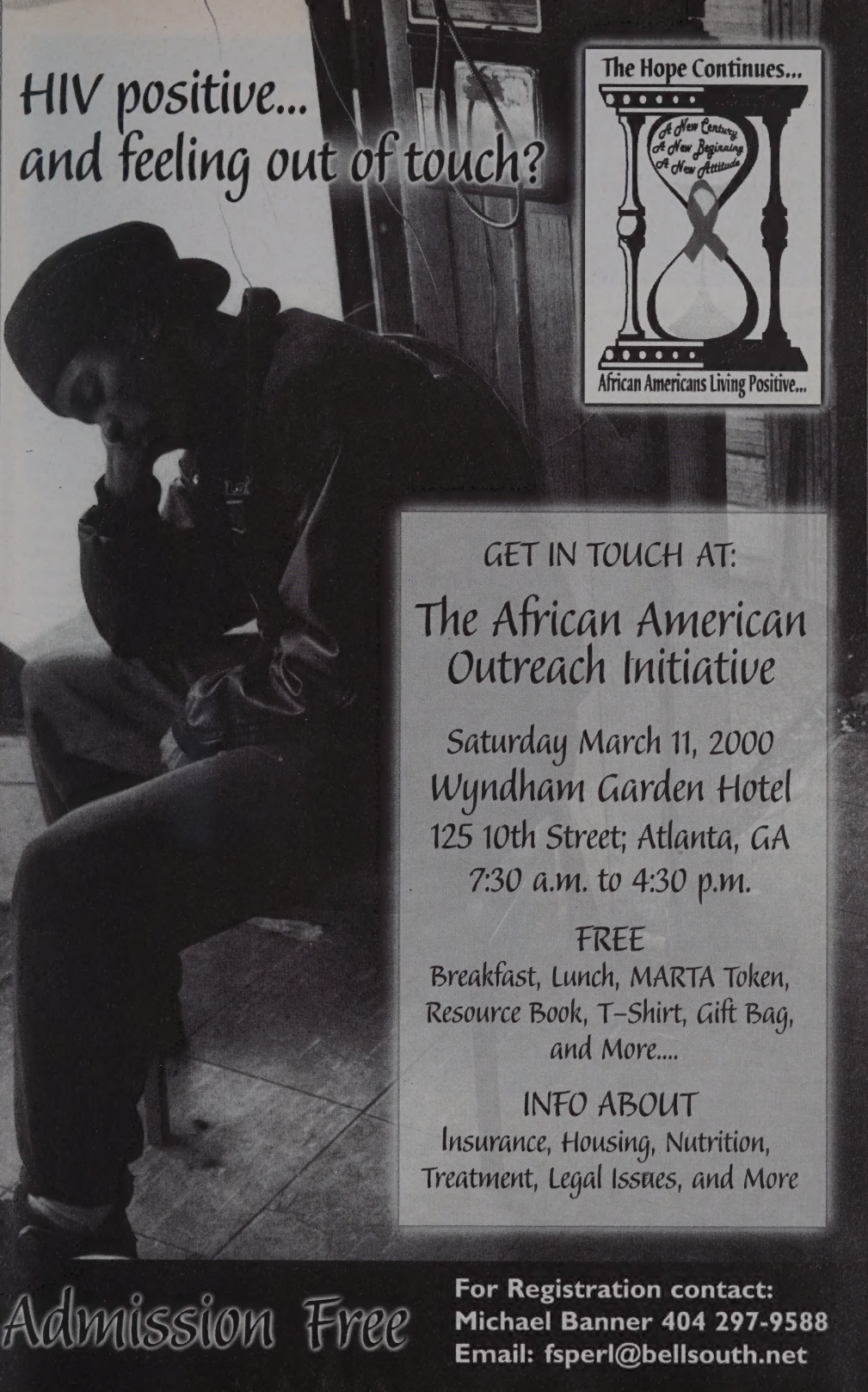
You're going to stand for that, you're going to sit for that, you're going to just let this stuff go by, you're not going to fight?

You're not going to fight to make sure that homosexuals and lesbians can't adopt children from birth who can go to heterosexual families, so they will be intentionally robbed of a father or a mother on purpose in spite of all the psychological and sociological literature?

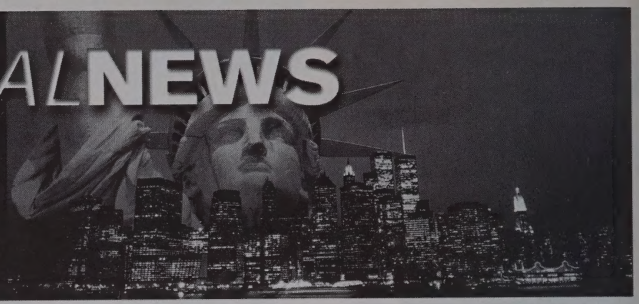
You're going to stand by and let this happen, just go to work and put gas in your car today? Don't you care about children?

If you're gay or lesbian, it's a biological error that inhibits you from relating normally to the opposite sex. That fact that you are intelligent, creative and valuable is all true.

The error is in your inability to relate sexually intimately, in a loving way to a member of the opposite sex—it is a biological error.


HIV positive...
and feeling out of touch?
The Hope Continues...
A New Century
A New Beginning
A New Attitude
African Americans Living Positive...
GET IN TOUCH AT:
The African American Outreach Initiative
Saturday March 11, 2000
Wyndham Garden Hotel
125 10th Street; Atlanta, GA
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
FREE
Breakfast, Lunch, MARTA Token, Resource Book, T-Shirt, Gift Bag, and More....
INFO ABOUT
Insurance, Housing, Nutrition, Treatment, Legal Issues, and More
Admission Free
For Registration contact:
Michael Banner 404 297-9588
Email: fsperl@bellsouth.net

NATIONAL NEWS
Clikque Magazine



ANTI-GAY CONFERENCE ADS FOR 'EX-GAYS" REJECTED BY TAMPA MEDIA

TAMPA— The Tampa Tribune reported Feb. 11. that A Christian group promoting a conference aimed at preventing homosexuality among teens has claimed it is being censored by media that won't run their ads. "We have a constitutional right to this message, and we feel that people are at work to get our message silenced," said John Paulk of Focus on the Family, which has sponsored six "Love Won Out" conferences across the U.S. Their ad, "Tired of Being Gay?" has run since Jan. 28 in the Tribune's "Friday Extra" section. But a 10-second ad they ran on WSSR-FM caused local radio personality Carmen Conner to apologize after it aired, and the station quickly dropped the ads. Several other radio stations have cancelled promotional spots for the conference. Eller Media Co. in Clearwater backed out of a verbal commitment to work on a bus shelter promotion. In its materials, Focus on the Family says its purpose is to educate public school administrators, teachers and parents about the "homosexual agenda in Florida public schools, and how they should respond." The conference was set for Feb. 26 at a Baptist church in Brandon, Fla.

FINDINGS SUGGESTS THAT BIRDS ARE BAD FOR THOSE WITH WEAK IMMUNE SYSTEMS,

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—People with weakened immune systems who come in contact with birds may be putting themselves at risk for developing life-threatening illnesses, according to a study published the Feb. 8 issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine. It found that the 1998 death of a 72-year-old Boston woman might have been caused by breathing an airborne fungus found in bird feces. The woman, who lived in a house with family members, had owned a pet cockatoo for seven years. She did not live on the same floor as the bird, but did pass its cage several times a week. The woman had undergone a liver transplant in 1989 and was taking drugs that suppress the body's immune system. The study's authors said it may be wise to advise people with compromised immune systems, including HIV and AIDS patients, to consider avoiding pet birds and public places such as parks where pigeon and other bird feces may be found.

GAY GROUP SUPPORTS BALLOT MEASURE BAN ON SAME-SEX-MARRIAGE

SACRAMENTO (AP)—A proposed same-sex-marriage ban on California's March 7 ballot is drawing some unexpected support from a small group of gay men and women. The Proposition 22 campaign announced Feb. 10 the formation of a coalition called "Gays for 22." Tom Beddingfield, 24, a gay political consultant from San Jose and coalition chairman, said he has been seeking other gays who share his support for the initiative. "California needs to be protected from other state judges redefining our law for us," said Beddingfield. "It's not an anti-gay initiative," Beddingfield said at a news conference. He said his coalition claims about 50 members statewide. Opponents of the initiative said the five public members of the group, all in their early 20s, are "naïve."

AMERICA'S FIRST OPENLY GAY DEAN APPOINTED AT EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

SEATTLE—Rev. Robert Taylor was installed Feb. 12 as dean of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, the first openly gay dean of an Episcopal cathedral in the U.S., the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported. Some had feared St Mark's would suffer a backlash when it announced last summer that it had selected Taylor to lead the Capitol Hill cathedral, the largest Episcopal congregation in Western Washington. But the South Africa native's selection—and his work since his arrival at St. Mark's—have instead brought on a wave of good will and optimism, church leaders said. Fund-raising is up 45 percent, and attendance is high. Part of Taylor's appeal for the search committee was in his years of fighting apartheid when he was a young man in Cape Town. He fled to the United States with the help of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was present at Taylor's installation.

BUDGET CUTS FOR MILLENNIUM MARCH ON WASHINGTON

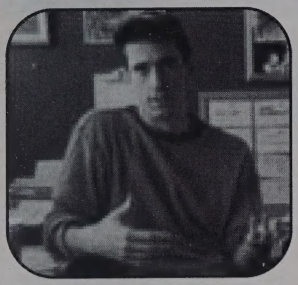
WASHINGTON—Organizers of the Millennium March on Washington for Equality have cut $1 million from the budget, both from anticipated costs and revenue projections from the April 30 event. But despite cuts and even a loan from one of its directors, budget projections show the event is running a deficit. Diane Hardy-Garcia, MMOW co-executive director, says budget cuts were necessary to bring the cost of the event down from $2.97 to under $2 million. MMOW organizers are counting on revenue projections from a street festival, merchandise and corporate marketing to pay the cost of the April 30 event. Plans call for a march, a rally on the National Mall, a two-day street festival, and about two dozen related events April 28-30. A group, the Ad Hoc Committee for an Open Process, has called on MMOW officials to cancel the march, citing concerns over its purpose, and what one critic has called its "top-down, closed-door" planning process.

COLLEGE STUDENT STABBED IN BACK IN APPARENT HATE CRIME

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A 20-year-old University of Arizona student was stabbed Feb. 6 outside a cafe that caters to gay customers in what police are calling a hate crime. Witnesses said the attacker said he wanted to "kill a fucking faggot" before and after stabbing the victim in the back. "Let this be a warning to the gay community!" the attacker reportedly yelled as he fled the scene. Police arrested Gary Grayson, 37, about a block away from the Rainbow Planet Cafe, and charged him with aggravated assault. The attack came the day before the university's Pride Alliance kicked off its annual Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Awareness Week. The victim, who has asked to remain anonymous, made an unexpected appearance at a rally of 1,500 on his behalf near the University of

Arizona campus seven days after the stabbing. "I am afraid," said the tearful student. "I am afraid to be the target of the world's discrimination. I am afraid of the hate that leads to violence. But perhaps I am most afraid that I am but one target in a world that holds so much intolerance to so many."

GAY COLUMNIST SAYS FLU TERRORISM AIMED AT GARY BAUER WAS A JOKE



DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)–A Seattle columnist under investigation for alleged voter fraud during the Iowa caucuses says his story about trying to infect former presidential candidate Gary Bauer with the flu was just a joke. During the final days of the campaign, Dan Savage posed as a volunteer at Bauer's headquarters in Des Moines. He also claimed, in a column for the on-line magazine Salon, to have voted in the caucuses. Savage, who was suffering from the flu, also wrote that he licked doorknobs and coffee cups and slobbered on a pen, all in hopes of slowing Bauer and his conservative agenda. "A good chunk of it was satire," said Savage. "People overlooked the fact that it was called 'The Merry Prankster.'" Prosecutors are still deciding whether to file charges.

ORANGE COUNTY GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE MEETS UNDER COURT ORDER

ORANGE, Calif.—Reaction spread throughout the county as Orange Unified School Board trustees indicated that in July they plan to require students to get parental permission before joining school groups, the Orange County Register reported Feb. 12. Meanwhile, a gay/straight alliance at the center of the controversy met for the first time—under court order—at El Modena High School Feb. 9. A brief melee broke out as school let out, and 30 or so students swarmed a dozen anti-gay protesters across the street from campus and shouted at them to go away, the Los Angeles Times reported Feb. 10. The students rushed across the street as the poster-waving protesters, most of them from Utah, shouted "Stop gay clubs!" and "Stop the propaganda!" About 70 students walked off campus on Feb. 11, some to protest the club, some to support it, some supporting a recently suspended student, and some just trying to get their faces on TV, district spokesperson Judy Frutig said.

Meanwhile, two students have asked to start a gay support group at another Orange County high school. But officials in their school district said they have a policy that prohibits all clubs not related to the classroom.

IND. MAN WHO PREVENTED GAY ADOPTION SENTENCED FOR CHILD ABUSE

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP)—A man who received statewide attention for stopping a gay man from adopting a girl under his foster care was sentenced Feb. 9 to 40 years in prison for molesting that same girl. Earl "Butch" Kimmerling, pleaded guilty last month to four counts of molesting his foster daughter, now 9. He and his wife, Saundra, fought in 1998 to keep the girl from being adopted by Craig Peterson, a gay man who had adopted the little girl's three brothers. Judge Frederick Spencer called Kimmerling's crime a betrayal of trust and ordered him to serve 40 years of a 50-year maximum sentence. Prosecutors had argued for a harsh sentence.

NEW ORLEANS TV REPORTER BUSTED FOR DRUGS, SEX WITH UNDERAGE BOYS

NEW ORLEANS—A veteran reporter in New Orleans was arrested Feb. 4 for having sex with underage boys and drug charges. Mike Longman, 43, who has worked in New Orleans for more than two decades, was an award-winning investigative reporter with WVUE-TV at the time of his arrest. In an impromptu news conference, Longman admitted only to having an alcohol problem. Lt. David Benelli said New Orleans police were initially tipped off by a youth counselor, who informed them that a 15-year-old boy at a group home for abused children reported he had exchanged sex for money with Longman. Benelli said a raid of Longman's house produced 22 videocassettes showing Longman engaged in various sex acts with "very young-looking males." The videos also reportedly showed the newsman using and sharing cocaine.

POLICE STAY MUM ON MURDER OF 19-YEAR-OLD IN WASHINGTON

VANCOUVER, Wash.—Nineteen-year-old Alex Smith was found dead Feb. 11 by a roommate in his home, the Vancouver Columbian reported. Police say Smith had been dead two or three days and was murdered, but have declined to reveal how he died. Friends who have set up an Internet web-site as a memorial to Smith (www.xpmag.com) said they were shocked and saddened and had no idea who would have wanted to harm him. Police spokesman Sgt. Dave King said this morning that detectives had interviewed many people in Smith's circle of friends and acquaintances but had found no prime suspect.

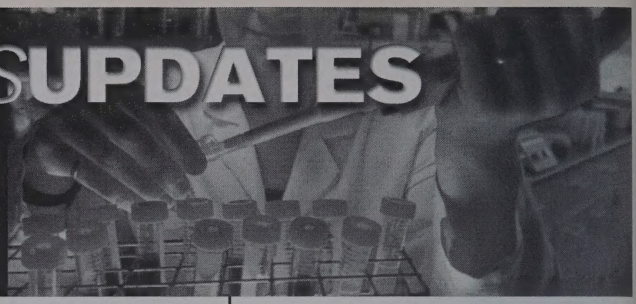
RASH OF PARK BASHINGS BY TEENAGE GANGS ALARM MELBOURNE POLICE

MELBOURNE—A rash of gay-bashings is turning into a "blood sport" in Melbourne, the Emerald Hill Times reported Feb. 9. Teenagers as young as 16 are stalking their victims through Alma Park and catching them alone before bashing them. The vicious beatings have prompted police to plead for men to be alert when wandering in gay cruising spots. The latest attack, which left a 38-year-old man with severe injuries, came in late January. Police believe up to 10 teenagers cornered the man and turned on him with their fists and feet until he lost consciousness. Police are also investigating another six bashings in as many months but believe this is only "the tip of the iceberg" because many men are too ashamed or scared to report the attacks.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTED INSTEAD OF GAY MARRIAGE IN VERMONT

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)–Lesbian and gay couples should be granted the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples through a broad civil rights statute, but not marriage, a Vermont House committee decided. The Judiciary Committee voted Feb. 9 to draft legislation that would extend legal rights to gay domestic partnerships. Three of the 11 committee members wanted a bill that would have legalized gay marriage. "This is a momentous vote," Gov. Howard Dean said. "It's a vote to move forward to become the first state to really grant equal rights" to gays. The legislature has been grappling with how to respond to a state supreme court ruling in December that said gay couples are unconstitutionally being denied rights and benefits that accompany legal marriage. Committee members stressed their decision to bypass marriage was a difficult one that was not intended to offend or discriminate.

HIV/AIDS UPDATES
Clikque Magazine



New drugs may reduce daunting number of pills taken by AIDS patients

Powerful new AIDS drugs in development should help relieve one of the biggest problems of treatment — the pill burden.

Over the past four years, new treatment combinations have revolutionized AIDS care, changing HIV infection from a death sentence to a disease that is treatable, if not curable.

However, patients must adhere to a tedious and exacting schedule of downing pills, often more than 20 a day.

Now, drugmakers are working on new drugs that require much smaller doses as well as better versions of the old standbys that can be taken less frequently.

Experts say that if all goes well, over the next two or so years it may be possible to reduce the pill burden to just four tablets taken once a day.

"Most drugs are dosed twice or three times a day for a reason. Once a day is not enough. The Holy Grail would be to take all your medicines once a day with as few capsules as possible. We are not so far from that, maybe in the next couple of years," said Dr. Eugene Sun, head of antiviral drug research at Abbott Laboratories.

The pill-taking schedule is more than just a nuisance. Those who miss even a few doses risk losing control over their virus. Without enough medicine in the bloodstream, HIV comes roaring back, often generating mutant versions that are resistant to the drugs.

About half of all patients who initially respond to treatment eventually find their virus levels rebounding, and the most common reason for this is failure to stick to a pill schedule.

A key ingredient of most drug regimens is a class of medicines called protease inhibitors. They are often combined with two or three older kinds of drugs, such as ddI and AZT.

At this week's 7th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in San Francisco, doctors described results of testing with new varieties of protease inhibitors. Some of these medicines are 10 times more powerful than the ones that transformed AIDS treatment.

Protease inhibitors are by far the biggest lump in the pill burden. Typically patients must take three of them three times a day — a total of nine pills — often on an empty stomach.

In the works are protease inhibitors that doctors hope will need to be taken twice or even just once a day. One of these described Wednesday is Bristol-Myers Squibb's drug code-named BMS-232632.

In preliminary testing directed by Sanne, it appears that one or two of these pills once a day is as effective at suppressing HIV as the standard dose of nelfinavir, an older protease inhibitor.

Abbott presented promising results with its experimental protease inhibitor ABT-378, showing it seems to work against strains of virus that are already resistant to other drugs. The drug will be combined with ritonavir, another protease inhibitor, into pills that will be taken three at a time, twice a day. The company is working on smaller doses as well.

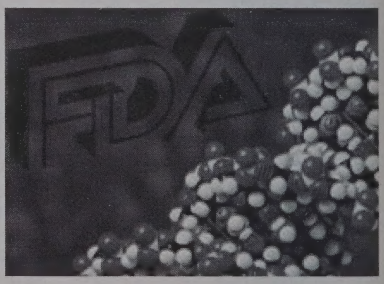
Unexpected side effects can quickly derail development of these drugs. Merck Research Laboratories was scheduled to present results of its new protease inhibitor at the meeting Wednesday. But two weeks ago, it suspended human testing of the drug after rat experiments turned up possible kidney damage. The medicine, called MK-944A, is a combination of a new protease inhibitor and an older one, called indinavir, into a single pill that would be taken once or twice a day.

Extensive tests have found that gene therapy given to a group of dying cancer patients was not contaminated with hepatitis C or the virus that causes AIDS.

FDA: AIDS scare a false alarm

A few weeks ago, several newspapers reported that highly preliminary laboratory testing suggested an experiment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Houston's Baylor College of Medicine might have exposed children to the viruses.

However, the Food and Drug Administration said those lab tests are prone to errors.



Most of the children, who had advanced cases of the nervous system cancer neuroblastoma, have died of their cancer since the experiment. After the media reports, the hospitals tracked down survivors' families to warn them.

Thursday, after finishing several rounds of confirmatory testing, the FDA said there was no problem — the children were not exposed to infection.

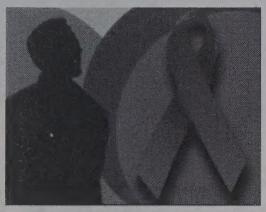
The agency said the scare also shows research labs must be careful in how they test gene therapy products for possible contamination — the lab St. Jude's hired used an error-prone method not even FDA-approved for gene therapy.

The concern arose when a St. Jude's researcher realized cells used to grow some of the gene-based medicine might not have undergone proper quality testing, and so began to double-check. The FDA will continue to investigate whether that portion of the experiment followed federal rules.

Tree bark yields two possible AIDS treatments

Scientists mining the world's forests for potential new drugs said Saturday they had found two new possible treatments for AIDS patients in the bark of trees.

A tree in Argentina has



yielded a compound that attacks the AIDS virus, while a tree found across Africa makes an an anti fungal compound that might work against the mouth infections that plague HIV patients, researchers said.

They told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) that their findings show the world's forests are still a rich source of new drugs — and they say their programs are also good examples of how developing countries can benefit from their natural resources.

Kurt Hostettmann of the University of Lausanne in Switzerland said his team had found an anti fungal compound in a tree known as Bobgunnia madagascariensis, which is found across Africa.

"Our compound is more active than all the compounds on the market," Hostettmann told a news conference.

It acts against Candida albicans, responsible for many fungal skin conditions and for the mycosis that affects the mouths, eyes and other parts of AIDS patients. It also can kill Aspergillis, which can cause a fatal lung condition and several other species of fungi that infect people, researchers said.

The compound is found only on the outer layer of the bark covering the roots — and then only the parts of the roots that are underground. It seems to be produced by the tree to protect itself against fungal infestations.

It takes six trees to make enough compound to test. Hostettmann said his group does not want to destroy all the trees so they have linked up with a U.S. drug company to synthesize the compound.

Hostettmann declined to name the company involved, but said his team had patented the compound and hoped to step up testing soon.

Mahabir Gupta of the University of Panama described an extract found in a tree in Argentina that "shows remarkable anti-HIV activity."

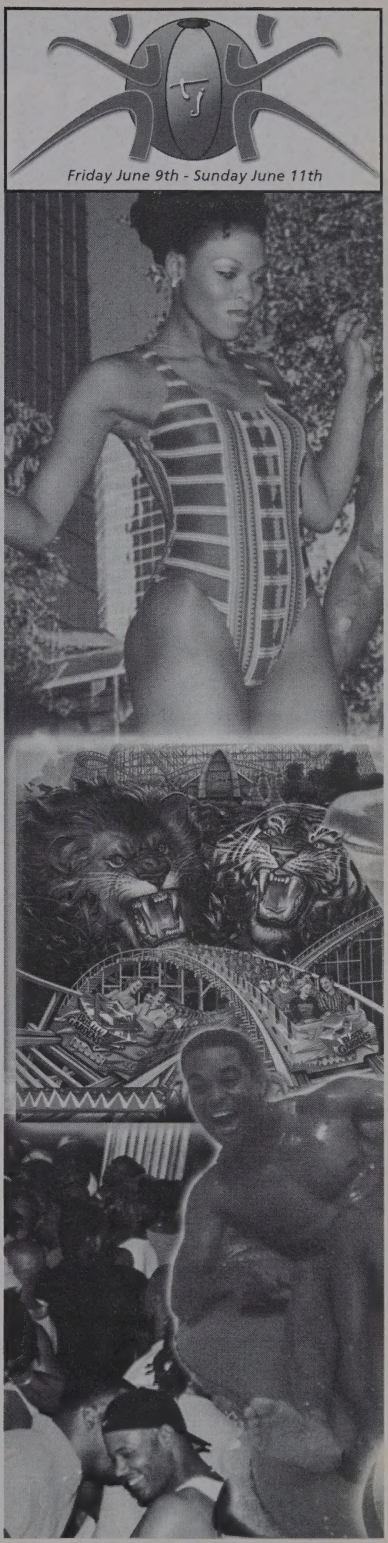
His team is now working with experts at the University of Pamplona in Spain to develop it.

"We feel that international cooperation is the one way to solve our needs," he told the news conference.

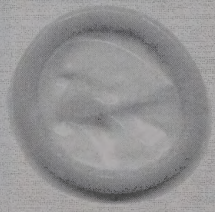
Companies have been criticized in the past for exploiting natural sources of drugs without compensating the countries where they were found, but Gupta said working with companies was the only way to develop promising compounds into drugs.

"If alliances are made in an intelligent way where both parties gain, I think it would be fruitful," he said.

Hostettmann said his team had a contract with the University of Zimbabwe to make sure money went back into the countries that supplied the trees.



Are You Doing It?



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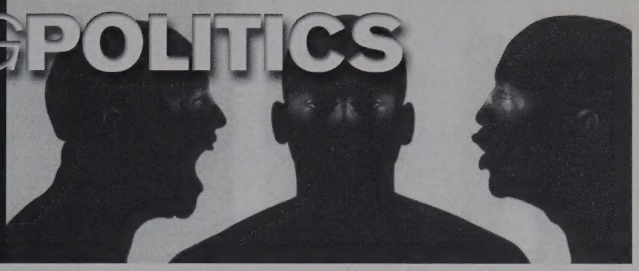


Taking The Democratic Stand On Issues

Gays in the military

Bradley: ..As a senator, voted against "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in 1993; voted for an amendment that would have given President Clinton the authority to lift the ban by executive order. In September 1999, became the first presidential candidate to publicly call for overturning DADT and allowing gays to serve openly.

Gore: .....Reportedly worked behind-the-scenes to encourage Clinton to lift the ban entirely, though he ultimately supported DADT. Last fall called only for more "compassionate" enforcement of DADT. After President and Hillary Clinton joined Bradley in calling for DADT to be scrapped, Gore announced opposition to DADT.

Anti-discrimination laws

Bradley:....As a senator, voted for Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 1996, when the federal bill to ban job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation failed by just one vote. Also supports amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964—the landmark civil rights bill banning discrimination in employment, public accommodations, voting rights and other areas—to add sexual orientation as a category.

Gore:.....Favors ENDA and, as vice president, was prepared to fly back to D.C. to vote if the bill had reached a tie in the Senate in 1996. Gore has joined some gay activists in opposing Bradley's suggestion of amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act, calling opening the act too dangerous in a conservative Congress. Gore supports in concept banning discrimination against gays in other categories but favors focusing first on ENDA.

Gay marriage

Bradley:....Voted for the anti-gay "Defense of Marriage Act" in the Senate in 1996. Opposed to legalizing marriage for gays, but supports granting domestic partnerships with "all the legal and economic benefits" that come with marriage. Was the first presidential candidate to speak out against the Knight Initiative, a California ballot measure to ban gay marriage in the state; praised the Vermont Supreme Court ruling that requires equal benefits for gay and straight couples.

Gore:.....Supported DOMA, and is opposed to same-sex marriage, but has said he is "for legal protection for domestic partnerships." Announced his opposition to the Knight Initiative after Bradley. Also praised the Vermont ruling.

Hate crimes legislation

Bradley:....Supports the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would add sexual orientation, gender and disability to existing federal hate crimes laws and provide for greater federal jurisdiction in prosecuting such crimes.

Gore:.....Supports HCPA and has repeatedly spoken in favor of the bill.

Gay parenting issues

Bradley:....Supports adoption rights for gay men and lesbians.

Gore:.....Opposes efforts to ban gay adoptions. According to a spokesperson, "the vice president would leave gay adoptions up to adoption professionals on an individual basis."

Gay appointments

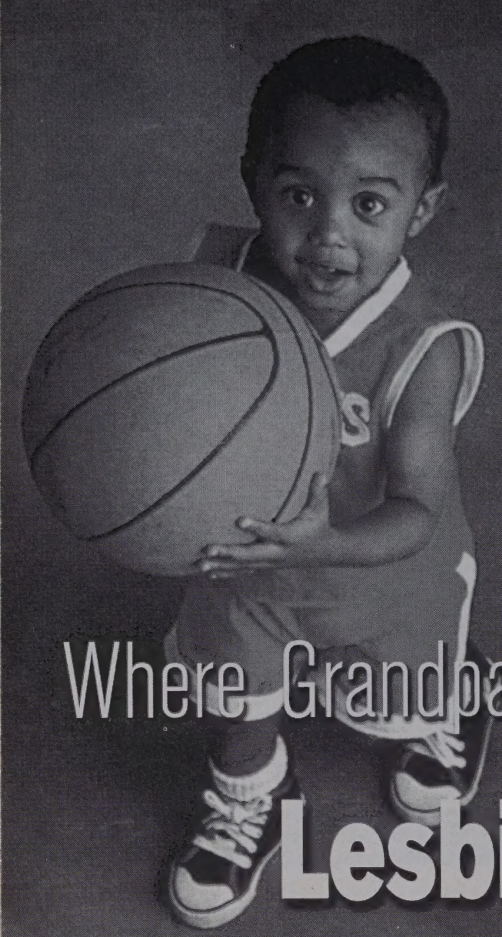
Bradley:....Would appoint qualified gay men and lesbians to his administration.

Gore:.....Would appoint qualified gay men and lesbians; Clinton-Gore administration has appointed more openly gay individuals than any previous administration.

April's Topic Of The Month

You might already be aware that over the past few years gays and lesbians (mostly white) have been fighting the courts, governments and society for the right to legalized same gender marriages. What are your thoughts on this topic? Should gays and lesbians be granted the right to marry and be legally recognize as such? Why isn't this a hot issue for our SGL community of color?

We welcome your comments on the above topic. A selected number of entries will be published in the magazine. Please try to limit your entries to 500 words; we would like to publish as many entries as possible. Photo Submission Optional.
Deadline: 3-15-99



I am a lesbian in my mid-thirties, and the only minor in my custody is a one and-a-half-year old beagle mix. On the face of it, one would think that the fact that the Supreme Court is considering whether grandparents should have the right to visit their grandchildren against the wishes of the child's parent, has nothing to do with me. But Troxel v. Granville, the case in which Jenifer and Gary Troxel of Washington petitioned for visitation with their grandchildren after their son, the children's father, killed himself, has a lot to do with my life.

The Troxel case is about parental rights: specifically, whether or not parents can say who sees their children and when. It's also about the rights of certain people to remain in a child's life on a consistent basis when doing so would be in the child's best interest, even if the parents would rather not allow it. The fact is, I have only a beagle-mix in my custody because the court's definition of family does not include me. (Just don't tell that to the sixth grader who calls me her parent — even though for five years I was not able to see or speak to her, and had no legal right to fight for that privilege.)

Where Grandparents Rights *Meets* Lesbian Rights

By: NANCY ABRAMS

Here's how it happened. Twelve years ago, my female lover and I decided to have a baby together. She got pregnant and we got a lawyer. We drew up wills and powers of attorney stating that it was our intention that the child she bore would count us both as parents.

Our baby came into the world on a beautiful autumn day, and with her came a raft of responsibilities. These we shared, from choosing a name, to deciding between cloth or disposable diapers. We took turns feeding her, shared the financial burden, and planned her future together. Our little girl, who called my partner Mama, and me, Ima (the Hebrew word for mother) had no idea that one of her mommies had no recognized legal ties to her.

But just as our daughter was learning to talk, my partner and I were finding that we could no longer speak civilly to one another.

By 1993 we had separated and were engaged in an icy dispute over my right to visit our child. Our standoff involved judges and lawyers and ended in my being forbidden from having any contact with my daughter. In the eyes of the judge I was an unrelated adult, a "biological stranger." The powers of attorney and will we'd drawn up during the pregnancy and which formalized our intent at the time that I be the child's de facto parent, held no ground.

I realized when I was losing my daughter that had I been her father instead

of her co-mother, I would have been awarded court-sanctioned visitation

rights. Had I been her grandmother, I would at least have had the right, in all 50 states, to petition for visitation. Instead, with the court's blessing, I was completely cut off from all contact with my then 4-year-old child.

Today there are dozens of lesbian versus lesbian custody and visitation cases in the courts — and many more are being played out outside the legal system. And while there have been a smattering of successful outcomes for the non-biologically related co-mothers, we rarely win. So far, only a handful of states allow lesbian co-mothers to adopt their child in so-called two parent adoptions (the only way same-sex couples can enjoy legal ties to their children).

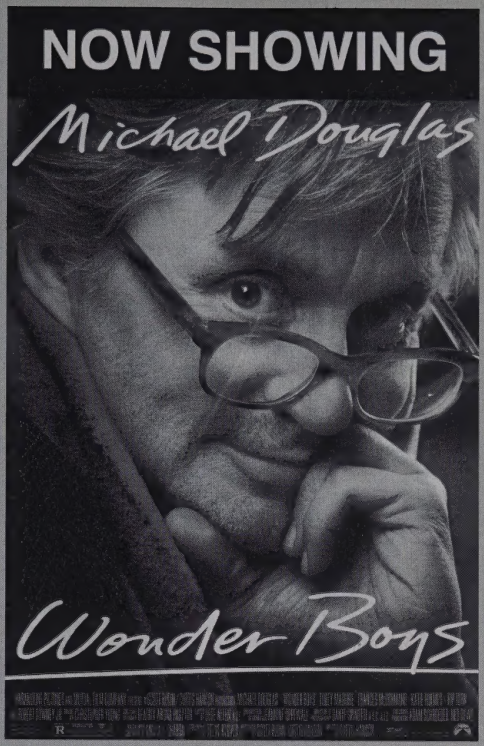
Although the number of children who have been or will be affected by lesbian divorce is not known, the fact that between one-third and one-half of all lesbians are estimated to be raising children suggests that same-sex custody disputes are inevitable. And without legal protections, painful outcomes for the parents, and most importantly our children, seem just as inevitable. That is, unless our courts broaden their definitions of what makes a family — from a child's-eye point of view.

The Troxel case is an opportunity to do just that. In considering these grandparents' requests, the highest court in our land is being forced to consider what a family is. It is forcing our country to consider that it might be in the best interests of all of our children to examine carefully, on a case by case basis, the strength of the ties between adults and children, and which of those bonds should be protected.

Some are saying the Troxel case proves that Washington state's laws, which allow any adult to sue for visitation of a child, are too broad. A lack of any criteria for who can ask a judge for regular contact with a child undermines a parents' authority, they say. That may well be, but I know from experience the dangers of laws that take too narrow a view of what makes a family. And now, when less then a quarter of all American families fit the paradigm of a mother a father and a couple of children, it is more important than ever to write laws that take into consideration the ever-broadening definitions of family that are being created in extended, blended and gay and

lesbian families. The alternative is to have children, like the Troxel's granddaughters, and my daughter, cut off from the people they love; the people they call family.

NANCY ABRAMS is the author of THE OTHER MOTHER: A LESBIAN'S FIGHT FOR HER DAUGHTER (University of Wisconsin Press), a memoir of a lesbian versus lesbian custody dispute.



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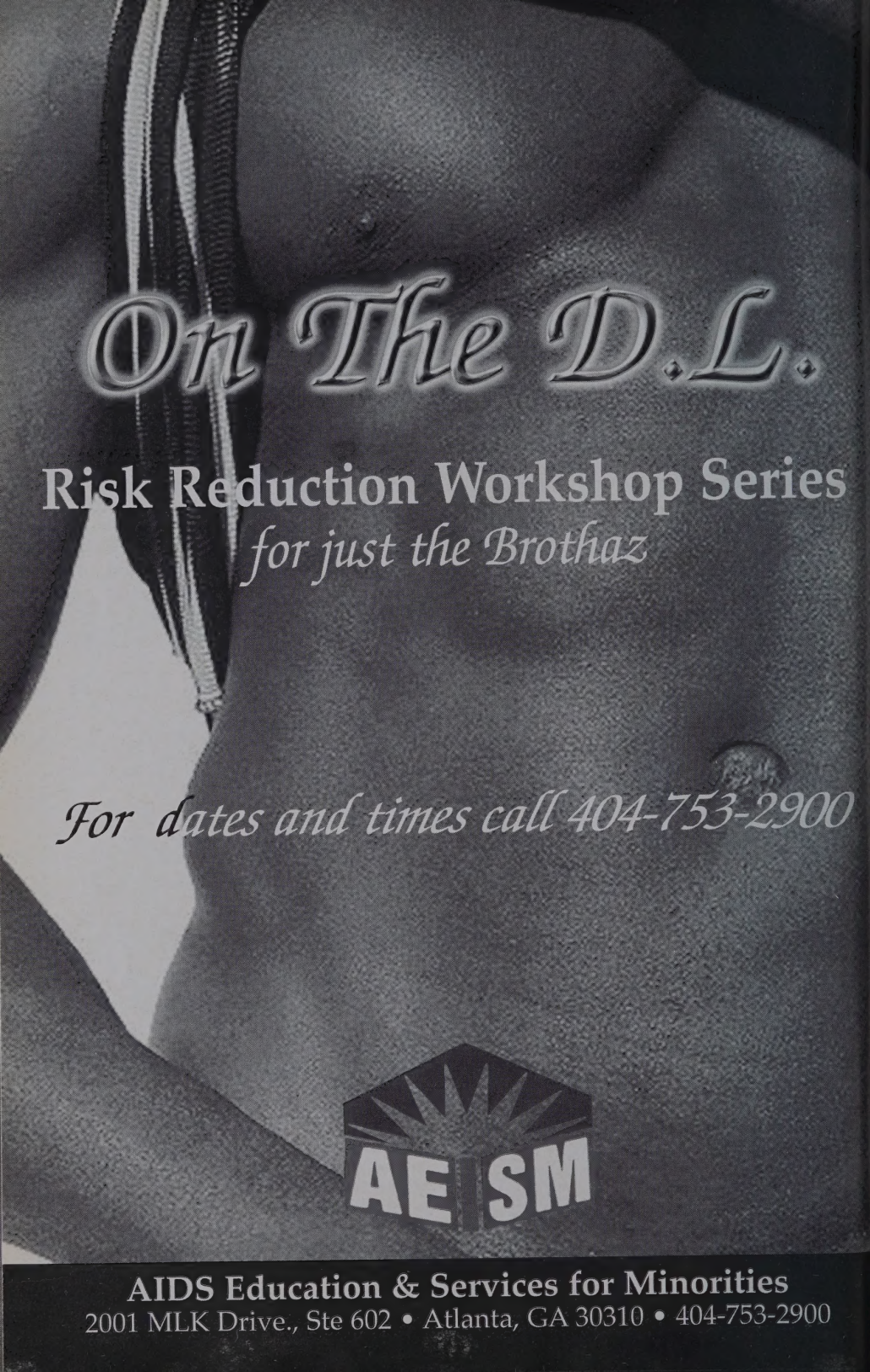
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Getting Your Month Off To A Great Start

PISCES — Come out and be seen this month. Your unique style is admirable. Your talents should not be hidden, but shared with everyone around you.

ARIES — You will experience tremendous personal growth. Your beliefs and opinions about certain issues are likely to change. Experimentation is the word that best describes your lifestyle right now, so enjoy!

TAURUS — Take control of your life and manage your sensual desires. Beware that all that you desire is not necessarily good for you. Focus on doing things differently and step out of your daily routine by doing something unique and spontaneous.

GEMINI — Let it go already! What is in the past is in the past and it can't be changed. Trust yourself enough to feel comfortable with who you are and don't be so secretive to the point that no one knows the real you, "uncensored".

CANCER — You will be admired for your eccentricity. Pay close attention to your interactions with those who are close to you. There is spiritual purpose and inner growth involved with these relationships.

LEO — Don't fight the change that is about to occur in your life. It is time to let go of your excess baggage and stand up for your own personal happiness.

VIRGO — Lower your standards just enough for you to be able to let go of the stress that comes along with setting them too high. Your humorous ways will do wonders for you this month, you just might get exactly what you've been waiting for.

LIBRA — Emotional wounds from the past will be completely healed in due time. You will get all the attention you deserve if you come out of your shell of self-protection and begin to trust others more.

SCORPIO — Accentuate the positive! Allow the outer appearance that you portray to others to become reality in your private life as well. Don't allow your darker side to get the best of you.

SAGITTARIUS — Take control of your mood swings. They come from secret insecurities that will change with time. your desire to prove yourself may get the best of you, so focus on trying to reach more attainable goals and try to look at the "big picture".

CAPRICORN — This is a time when everything will seem too good to be true. Don't believe that! Enjoy your success and become a quiet authority in your trade. You will receive recognition for your brilliance.

AQUARIUS — Choose to follow your heart this month. Thinking too hard about anything is a waist of time when what your heart desires may be slipping away. Whatever goal you fix your sights on is promised to you, so go for it!

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Who's Watching The Watchers?

by craig washington

Whatever Banneker Field couldn't hold was spilling out onto the sidewalks while various SUVs and sports cars locked down the surrounding streets. The invasion was in full force. Various species of polygendered, sgl, lesbigay folk flocked to the final perch of this migration. It was Black Pride Sunday, the last mass gathering of all the beautiful children who'd descended upon the capital. A live soundtrack of house, hiphop and reggae beats infused the air, scores of camcorders rolled to capture this vision of brown bodies, shaved heads, locks, loose drapings, tight shorts and less, and more. Anthony was thankful he was not home this weekend, since he would probably be manning a table amidst the throngs of Atlanta's finest. He and the other HIV prevention workers in town would have their hands full come Labor Day, so he wanted to make sure Memorial Day was no work and all play.

He had already been through the vendor village and scanned the bleachers twice before he finally spotted Simone. She was where she told him she'd be, at the big purple Imani Center tent. When he got close enough he started waving, but she was much too busy chatting up some woman who seemed quite fixated on Simone's words. He smiled to himself reflecting how she was such a natural charmer, one who attracted many sisters and brothers with her distinctive looks, style and activist convictions. He never had the fire in his belly for this work like she did. It was the only thing about her that made him jealous. He otherwise appreciated everything about her, especially the fact that she was ultra femme. There she was, holding court, so by the time he'd walked up on her, 2 more sistas were in her face. She was promoting some upcoming poetry slam when he finally caught her eye. She handed the women some flyers, quickly excused herself then ran from behind the table and wrapped Anthony in a luxurious hug. "Hey woman," he said. "You know I been looking all over for you and look at you, just working these poor sistas from all over the country." "Well, I know there's a world to save but a girl can't live on the revolution alone. Actually, these women are workin' me. Where's Scott?" He couldn't help but smile when she asked. Unlike several of his black friends, Simone always asked about Scott. They never talked about how she felt about him being with a white man for the past 3 years, but he knew she loved him enough to care about Scott. That was enough for him. I left him in the car at the corner with Saadika." "Saadika's here?" Simone was surprised, she'd heard a lot about Saadika without ever meeting her. "Yeah, can you believe it. You know with her, if it ain't a party or some ghetto fab soiree she ain't comin," he frowned. "Now, now" she said. "You know most of our community is not doing the out gay organizing thing!" "Yes, I know, all too well." "Stop pouting," she nudged him. "Let's hit it. You don't want to keep your sweetie waiting too long"

As they navigated through the crowd, Anthony felt a hand slide across his behind. He turned around quickly only to see a number of unfamiliar faces all paying him no mind. When he turned forward there was Nigel standing with arms folded and that wide-toothed grin of his. "Don't tease me like that, baby," Anthony said. Nigel held up both hands and pleaded, "I was just trying to show some love." Nigel was a good friend from Anthony's Morehouse years. Now a D.C. attorney, he was a

well-known donor who supported D.C. Pride and other black gay institutions across the country.

"Nigel, this is my girl Simone. She is the co-director of the Imani Women's Health Center. She's supposed to be doing outreach, but I caught her doin' some overtime, if you know what I mean." "Well," Nigel offered," there's all kinds of ways to reach out." Simone rolled her eye at Anthony. "Anyway," she said, "Anthony's told me some great things about you. We need more brothers like you to give more than lip service to this work." "Why thank you, Simone. So where are you all headed?" "Back to his hubbie," Simone cooed, nodding at Anthony. Three young men, more pretty than handsome, swaggered past them, one winked at Nigel and said "Whassup! " "Ooh and I just found mine," Nigel declared turning to behold his departing admirer.

"Now that's what I like about D.C. We have real boys for you. Not like those girls in Atlanta perpetrating." "Tell me bout it," Anthony agreed. "Atlanta is full of bottoms wearing top gear, meanwhile everybody's wanting to get done." "There aint nothing wrong with a man wanting to get fucked but I don't think he has to act like a woman," Simone added. "Personally I resent some of these flamboyant brothers. I think they take it a little too far." "You're right Simone, some of these so-called men are more woman than you!" "Now I don't know about all that," Simone laughed. "But that's one reason I like hanging with you Anthony. I don't have anything against queens, but I like being out with a masculine brother. You get more respect on the street." Nigel just couldn't let that go. "Now don't let me have to call you out. I know a certain person who definitely likes getting done every now and then." "Okay Nigel, I admit it. I do. But you don't see me butch one day, then nellie the next. Just because I'm gay doesn't mean I have to follow some stereotype. It seems to me if more gay men acted more like men we would be more accepted. "

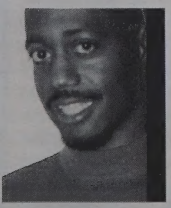
"This is your target population, isn't it.?," Nigel pointed out. "Sure is. I tell you it would make my job a lot easier if these brothers would stop whoring around and start loving themselves more." "Here, here," Nigel affirmed. "Okay but, how do you do that?," Simone asked. Nigel and Anthony both looked perplexed. " You know, love yourself. Everybody from Oprah to Chante Moore talks about this loving yourself stuff, so I wanna know, what does that look like? Where do you start?" "I don't know," Anthony began, sounding irked. "Getting into yourself. Not looking for a relationship to do it for you, reading an Iyanla Vanzant book." "Well, what if I can't read that type of writing?" "Then you need to take a remedial course," Nigel snorted. "There's no excuse to be poor and dumb." Simone shook her head, wanting to change the subject she'd just brought up. Nigel caught her gesture and went to explaining himself. "Oh, don't mind me at all. I'm just totally allergic to poverty." Simone shot back, "Well you might want to take something for that, since this is Chocolate City and not everybody gets to work on the Hill."

"Where are you guys staying?", Nigel asked, ignoring Simone's comment. He was one of those composed queens who would not let anyone see his plummage ruffled. "With a friend, Saadika." "Do I know her?" "No." Nigel didn't push it but after a long pause Anthony added, "She's really Scott's friend." He gave a polite smile. "She's not, shall we say, my type." "Well, of course not, she's, well, a 'she'," Simone laughed. "No, I mean she's one of those hardcore types, you know what I mean, no make-up, flat shoes forever, just very dykey." "Well you know," Simone added, "Some sisters especially the older ones are into that role-playing stuff." "Yeah well just because you're a lesbian, doesn't mean you have to give up being a lady. I mean there isn't anything feminine about her." "And what's so terrible about that?" Nigel asked. "Never mind," Anthony answered. He seemed annoyed at the question. Simone focused her eyes then smiled, "There they are" Nigel was a little apprehensive but he asked anyway. "If you don't mind, I'd like to tag along with you all," Nigel said to Anthony. Anthony tried to sound enthused. "Sure, we need to catch up anyway."

Scott and Saadika were too caught up in their own conversation to notice them until Simone knocked on the window where Scott was sitting. This startled him which amused Nigel. Anthony waved and flashed a Colgate smile for Saadika to open the door. He heard Nigel say something to Simone then she answered, "No, he's not like that. He's okay." Anthony felt nauseous. He wanted to say something, to tell Nigel that Scott was not every white racist he met, but he didn't want to escalate things. More from what Nigel didn't say than what he did, Anthony knew Nigel didn't like him being with a white man. He thought it best to let things be. After introductions were made, Simone suggested the poetry slam at Sistaspace, a gallery owned by a black lesbian couple. Nigel hesitated but she explained that the gallery is owned by women and open to everyone. "You mean, just like all those galleries men own? " Saadika added.

Simone sat up front with Saadika and they swapped opinions about the Pride activities. Nigel was strategically wedged between Scott and Anthony. Anthony was trying not to be too obvious about observing Simone and Saadika. He hoped Saadika would not make some tacky play for his friend. "So Scott is it?" Nigel began. "Is this your first DC Black Gay Pride." "Yes it is and I'm having a ball" "I guess you are," Nigel smirked.

Continues On Page 29



written by senior staff writer
Craig Washington atlanta, ga.

Standing Outside The Fire

By: Andrew Marcellus

I must have resembled a lunatic. There I was, on the last night of my summer vacation, and in less than twenty-four hours, I would be back in Atlanta. Right back to where we were when I left, with me standing outside the fire. The night air gave no justification for the goose flesh that was beginning to spread from my arms to my back. Standing there bare chested, muscles flexed, eyes fixated and breath bated, I had not realized the temperature until the rivers of sweat began to pour stinging waves into the corners of my eyes. A victim of involuntary paralysis, I watched as the hot colors, the reds, oranges and yellows, danced around what had been my prized possessions. Influenced by either emotion or pyre--I can't remember--my eyes began to water as I sped through the familiar lines. I watched them disappear one by one--every card, letter, poem, and memento even the ticket stub I'd saved from the Fox. I saw the words and images that once gave me so much happiness crumple and whither. The luminous pile in my parents' garage began to physically manifest the dark lies and black irony that was the basis and the final spin of our relationship. Everything was there. Everything except the photo. My grip was tight and I wondered if I had the strength to really let go.

You probably don't even remember me taking it. It was at your graduation party. You're wearing the Donna Karan blazer you bought in New York during spring break. We talked every night that week. The brown and olive tweed blend looked so good next to your skin. Even in spite of the alcohol-induced scarlet frames, your eyes are a perfect russet hue. People sit at the tables behind you. They dance on the floor beside you. They move all around

you, but in the midst of people, food, liquor, music, lights, dark, and decorations, all I can see is you.

The blazer perfectly matches the thin olive turtleneck you are wearing. I close my eyes and feel the fabric prickle my face as we kissed. It was a perfect match, just like us, but there are so many things I regret. Mostly I regret falling in love with that smile. You smiled so much that night. Perfect smile. Perfect teeth. Perfect lips. Your smile is the whole of the photo. As always, it kept the room ablaze.

You always smile when you sing. The only thing missing in the photo is your voice. Even though you drank about a quarter of the huge bottle of vodka you're so proudly brandishing, you sang to me all the way home. That night in the car, you did the three things you do best. You sang. Damn, sometimes I wonder if the liquor doesn't make you sound even better than usual. You directed your invisible choir. I love to watch you conduct. When you get really excited and the music swells and goes all through your body, and on those Sundays when the choir has really prepared their music and projects like crazy, your shirt comes untucked, you break a sweat and your eyes get as bright and big as new money. Seeing you with your music excites me like fireworks to a child. But the thing you did better than all of that, the thing you mastered that night, and many others like it-- was lie. You lied to me about how much you loved me. That, my baby, my perfect love, my booskie... It is that that you do so incredibly well. You did it with words, ways, in speech and in poetry. Hell, you could even do it in three languages, and I believed you and matched your declarations one hundred fold.

What I couldn't see in the photo was a person who falls in and out of love with the seasons. I didn't see a person who truly meant well, but couldn't give me the love and attention that I needed and deserved. It doesn't show me where you were when I called and you weren't there. That perfect smiling mouth has an answer for every question except, "How do I let you go?" I stood there with your photo in my hand and looked into your eyes, and I did what I knew I had to do before I came back to Atlanta. I saved my life. I saved my self respect. I saved my self esteem. I saved the last bit of me that I had left after an entire summer of wondering why the calls and the letters stopped. I looked at that perfect skin, soft wavy hair, and sweet loving face, and said goodbye.

I must have resembled a lunatic standing there: bare chested, muscles flexed, eyes fixated, and breath bated. But I did it. I let it go. I let you and that perfect image go. I watched the reds, oranges and yellows swallow up the smile and the sorrows that I had been foolishly trying to hold on to for much too long. I watched the ends curl up and the sparkle in your alcohol-induced red eyes turn to a luminous blaze. And for the first time, in a long time, it felt good to be standing outside the fire.

Who's Watching .. Continued From Page 27

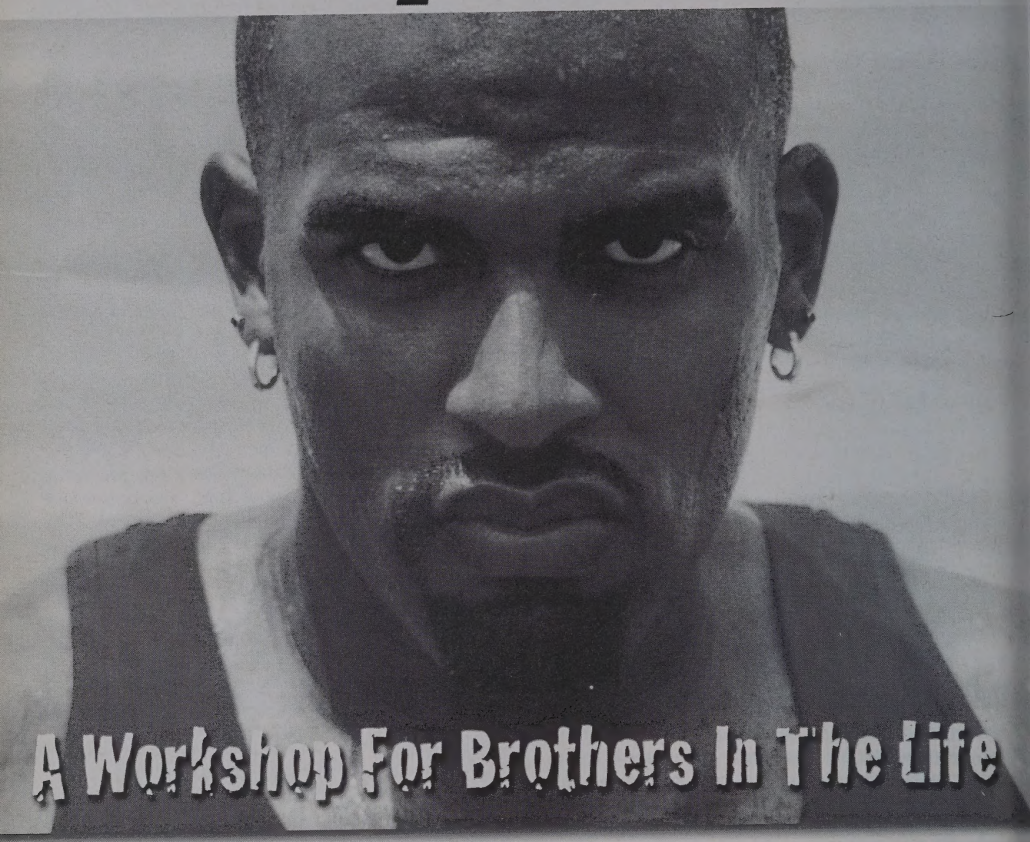
Scott pretended not to notice. "At first," he said "I didn't think it was appropriate for me to even be here. But I wanted to experience this with Anthony." He took Anthony's hand in his. "We usually do the regular Pride in June. "You mean the White Pride," Nigel said. It was not a question. Anthony stopped himself from coming to the rescue. "Well I wouldn't call it White Pride, since it's for everybody. Actually, if anybody is being separatist it's Black Pride." "Oh really" Nigel' voice leapt into falsetto. "Sure, I mean the Pride folks have done a lot to make it a diverse event." "Oh please, Scott. Tell me who sits on the board of Pride, a multiracial group or white people." "Well, white people" "And who comprises the staff?" "I know where you're going with this." "Good, I'm so glad you do. White people, that's who. And that's who that Pride is for, has always been for. Excuse me, the regular Pride. For all those regular white people."

"That's it," Anthony blurted. I'm so tired of black people criticizing whites for not being inclusive enough while they sit on their collective ass." "They?" Saadika said out loud to no one in particular. It went past Anthony. "Most of them couldn't spell 'out' or think about marching, at least in the daytime, if you paid them. I've spent the last 5 years trying to save the lives of men who don't give a shit about themselves and frankly, that's not the white man's fault." Scott sighed out loud. Nigel waved his hand high as if praying for some self-control. They pulled up in front of the gallery in silence. Saadika let everyone out first, so that she could go find a parking space. Simone offered to stay with her while the guys went on ahead.

As they pulled out Simone asked, "So what do you think about all that?" "All what?," Saadika joked. "I try not to get caught up in all that stuff you know. Hey, I'm bout livin my life. I ain't trying to make no waves or wave no banners neither." "But what if everybody thought like that. We wouldn't have any progress" "Who said I'm trying to be everybody. I'm just one sister in the world, sister! Seems to me like some people need to check themselves before they go trying to fix other people." Simone wanted to challenge her, ask her why she would not get involved in activist work. It seemed like so many sisters she knew had an opinion, but would never get up and do something. She decided to leave well enough alone. She was enjoying this space without the guys around. She realized how different Saadika was from the way Anthony described her. There was nothing "hardcore" about this woman. She was definitely butch, a soft butch, sure, but butch no doubt. Her voice was a warm raspy sound, her smooth skin framed by rows of short tight locks. As Saadika spoke she wanted to count them with her fingertips one by one. There must have been thousands.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.

we go deep



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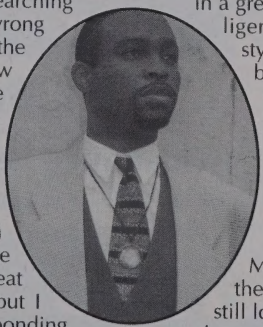
Finding Love:

by Darryl!

In my last writing I promised to address the area of finding love. In my life-work I find that most people say they want to be in love, have love and get love. Rarely do we hear people saying they want to give love. So often we find ourselves searching for love, "in the wrong places" and with "the wrong people." How do we determine that what we are looking for is not present before us? Recently I had an experience where a wonderful person was interested in me and we had a great growing friendship but I was too slow in responding to the possibilities and I lost out on a "good thing." Suffice it to say we are still good friends (possibly better than before) but the reason for the impasse was that I was interested in someone else who was not willing or able to offer what I wanted or needed at the time. So instead of recognizing that what I wanted was directly in front of me (presented in a great package of intelligence, beauty, and style) I overlooked it because this was not the person I wanted to be hearing or getting these "vibes" from. How sad for me.



Moreover, despite these experiences we still look for the answers to how we find love. Over and over again we have been confronted with the notion of "what you put out is what returns to you." Sometimes we think that because we are not getting what we think we are putting out that somehow the principle is flawed, but it is not. Think of it this way- What you get is what you really want. In other words, finding love is in direct relationship to your being the love you seek. What does that mean? Well, it's a good thing you asked. It means in order to find love you must first give love. You want a mate who will be accepting, patient, kind, trustworthy, honest, have a good job, have their own residence, or any of the other material accoutrements of success then YOU must first possess and freely give those qualities you seek to attract.

Rather than looking for love (or what ever else you want) just BE

Continues On Page 32

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Nubian Spirit Continued From Page 31

love. Love will then find you by aligning itself to you. Like attracts like. You remember the adage "misery loves company" then realize that love loves company, too. If you find yourself constantly in dead end relationships or friendships then look inward and uncover what you are aligning yourself with and why. Confront those demons and empty the baggage of negative self-worth, hopelessness, or defeatism and get yourself some new traveling clothes. Put on the cloak of positivity- shielding yourself with hope from the darts of negativism and hatred fired on you by the world and those around you. Dress your feet with stick-to-it-ness, refusing to get bogged down in the muck and filth of distrust, greed, or lack. Wear the pants of power, believing that you can have what you want and need the most. And adorn your chest with the shirt of fruitfulness- attracting to yourself what you are most in your heart and soul.

My sisters and brothers, finding love is the easy part. The hard part is accepting who we are and loving ourselves enough to BE what we most want in our lives. Take care of yourself and remember "Live in love and let love live in you, through you, and around you." Peace and blessings.

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DJ - Smash (Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B)

March 17th - Customer Appreciation Night
$5.00 b4 12:30 and half off drinks hourly
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DJ - Mark Kato (Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B)

March 24th - COLLEGE BASKETBALL FINAL FOUR WEEKEND
Wear your team jersey and pay $4.00 b4 12:30
DJ - Kevin Ford [Traxx, Fusion], (House)
DJ - Smash (Hip Hop, Reggae & R&B)

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Show your ID and pay reduced admission b4 1:00
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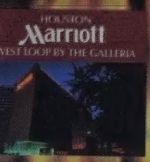

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The Best Party — Grover Fortenberry's
The Best Organized Group — Little Rascals
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The Best Bartender — Warrick
The Best Female Impersonator — Chanel Nicole
The Best Stud Entertainer — Lil Lee
Most Likely To Succeed Female Impersonator — Michell'e
Most Likely To Succeed Male Entertainer — Kyndarious Oz
Most Beautiful Female — Allegra Brooks
Most Beautiful Female Impersonator — Chanel Nicole
Best Male Entertainer — Sadraious Iman
Best Dressed Male — Clark
Best Dress Female — Allegra Brooks
Best Dress Female Impersonator — Tiffany Brooks
Most Handsome Stud — Lil Lee
Best Dance Group — Texas Teasers
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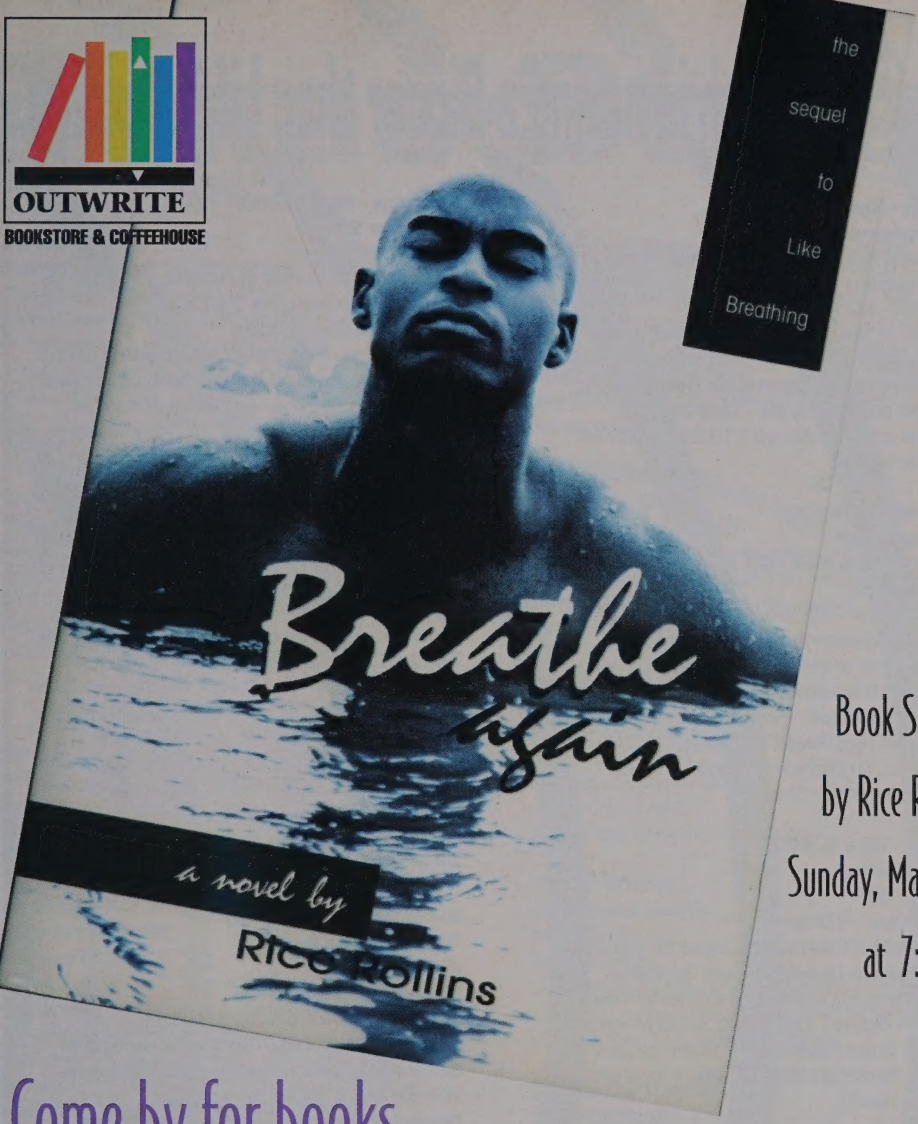

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Houston Splash is having a Bigger than Life Wedding...

Thursday - May 4, 2000
"The Engagement"
3rd Annual Strip Down -N- HTown Party
Place: Incognito
Time: 9pm - 3:00am
Come see as the country's finest male and female strippers battle for cash prizes. Hosted by the Atlanta's own **Dominique Rashad** along with music provided by **DJ - Tony Powell**. Interested contestants call 713.237.9431 for more information.

Friday - May 5, 2000
"The Rehearsal"
Houston Splash Kick - Off Party
Place: Incognito
Time: 10:00pm - 4:00am
The Official Houston Splash Kick - Off Party featuring some of the hottest male and female entertainers from around the country with your host **Cookie LaCook**. Plus, two dance floors featuring DJ Tony Powell - Houston, DJ Chris - Los Angeles, DJ Cedrick - DC and DJ Steve "Miggedy Maestro" - Chicago.

Saturday - May 6, 2000
"The Reception"
Place: SKYBAR
Time: 4:00pm - 8:00pm
Houston Splash's first annual event for the 21 and up crowd to be held at Scott Gertner's SKYBAR featuring the most spectacular view in the city of Houston. Located at 3400 Montrose Boulevard, in the Penthouse!!! Come be part of Houston's Best Kept SECRET, who knows what you might miss!!

Saturday - May 6, 2000
"Bachelor Party"
Place: The Hangar
Located on the corner of Roberts and Polk, 6 blocks from Incognito The Club
Time: 10:00pm - 4:00am
Just when you thought Houston Splash couldn't get any hotter we hit you with yet another twist. What do you get when you mix 3 Queens of Comedy, 2 rooms of music, 10 Exotic Dancers and 5,000 Men? **One Hell of a "Bachelor Party!"** Representing the Dirty South, (wearing your grandma's best church hat) the lovely talented **Sophia McIntosh**. Coming to you from the East Coast, sporting a new PRADA bag and boots (from Milan not NY) the hilarious **Harmonica Sunbeam**. Making her first appearance at Houston Splash the one, the only, **THEA VIDAL**, like you never seen her before, sporting new hair and attitude for the gods. And of course, no Bachelor Party would be complete without some of the nations finest **Exotic Dancers** for your tipping enjoyment. Show time will begin at 11:00pm sharp. If comedy doesn't tickle your fancy, perhaps 2 rooms of music pumping Deep House, Hip-Hop and that unforgettable Southern Bounce will!!!

Saturday - May 6, 2000
"Bachelorette Party"
Place: Incognito
Time: 10:00pm - 4:00am
Well finally an event fit for a QUEEN,
Our first Bachelorette Party to hit the scene!
So Ladies impress us with a dress if you dare,
We're going to give a Formal Affair,
"Studs" I know you like your caps and boots,
But why not leave them home and try a suit.
You've asked for this event, lets make it a blast!
Don't make this party our first and last.
Paging Dallas, Chicago and Ladies of the Night,
Pay Houston a visit, it will be worth your flight!!!
Your host and emcee for the evening Ms. Cookie LaCook along with a Flawless Cabaret featuring some of the top male and female entertainers from across the nation, along with a elegant buffet.

Texas Style!

Sunday - May 7, 2000
Houston Splash "2000" Beach Party
Sponsored by: Houston Splash
Place: Stewart Beach in Galveston (Just follow I-45 South until you hit water...)
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Sunday - May 7, 2000
"The Wedding"
Southern Diva/Stripper Extravaganza Party
Place: Incognito
Time: 3:00pm - 3:00am
Come witness a marriage that has lasted the test of time with your emcee **Cookie LaCook** and Chicago's own "Heavy Diva" **Otis Mack**, along with the countries best Male/Female Performers. But why have one wedding when you can have two, "Who will be crowned Mr. & Mrs. Hot BODY 2000!!! (Best Male, Female and Female Impersonator) Show time will begin at 10:00pm sharp! The patio will be open for your dancing enjoyment with go-go gods from across the country and music provided by DJ Dick - Canada.

Monday - May 8, 2000
"The Honeymoon"
Place: Incognito
Time: 10:00pm - 3:00am
Honeymoon according to "Webster", is a period of harmony immediately following marriage! Now you know it is all about finally being able to do the nasty all night long... and that's exactly what we plan to do, during **"The HONEYMOON!"** Featuring The Hot Body Revue. Hosted by Cookie LaCook with special guest Rande Rochelle.

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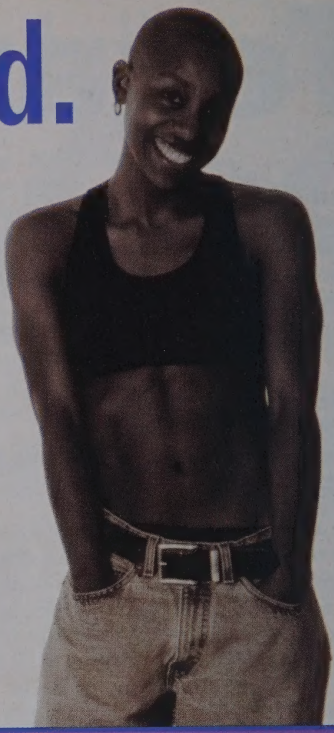

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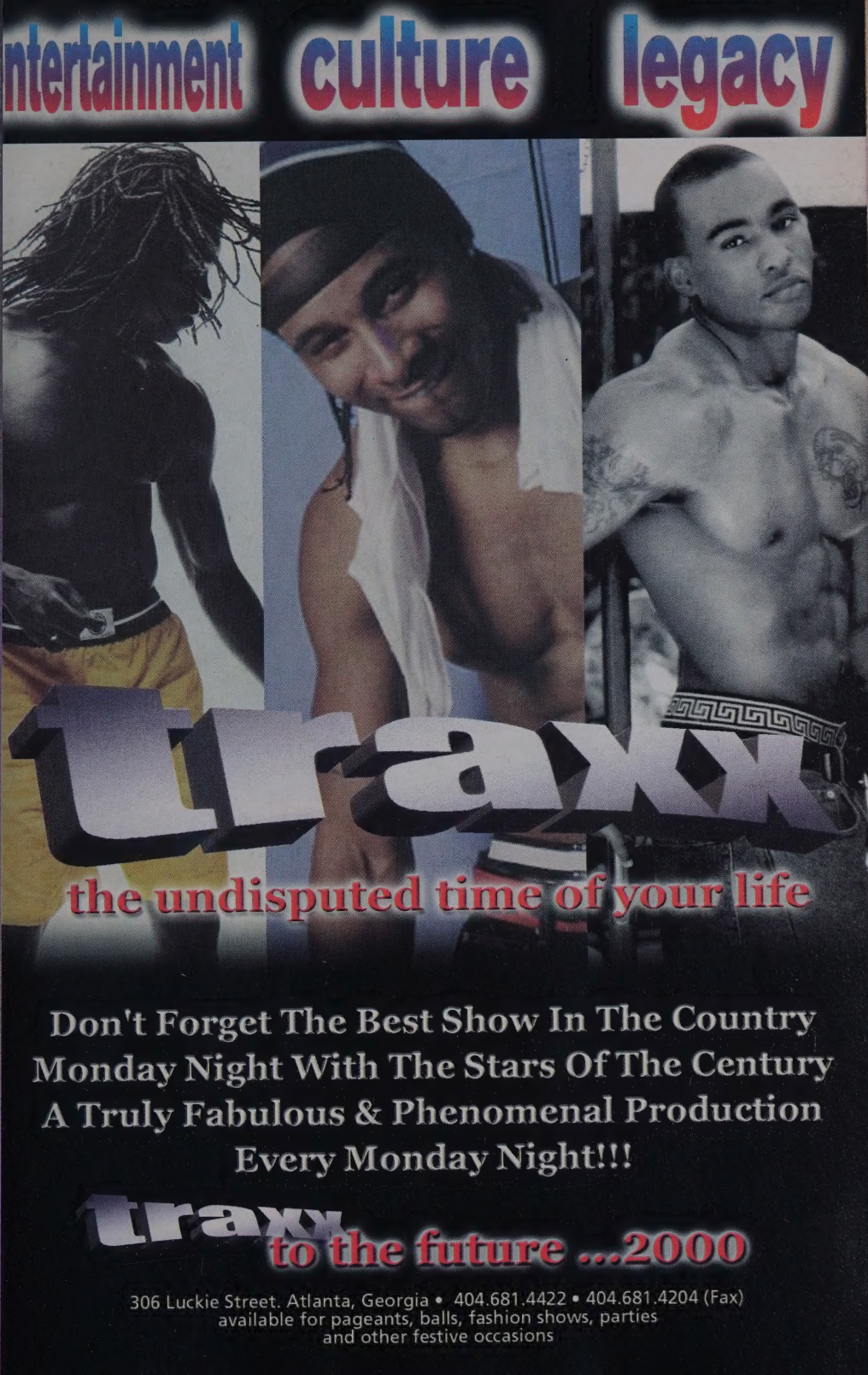
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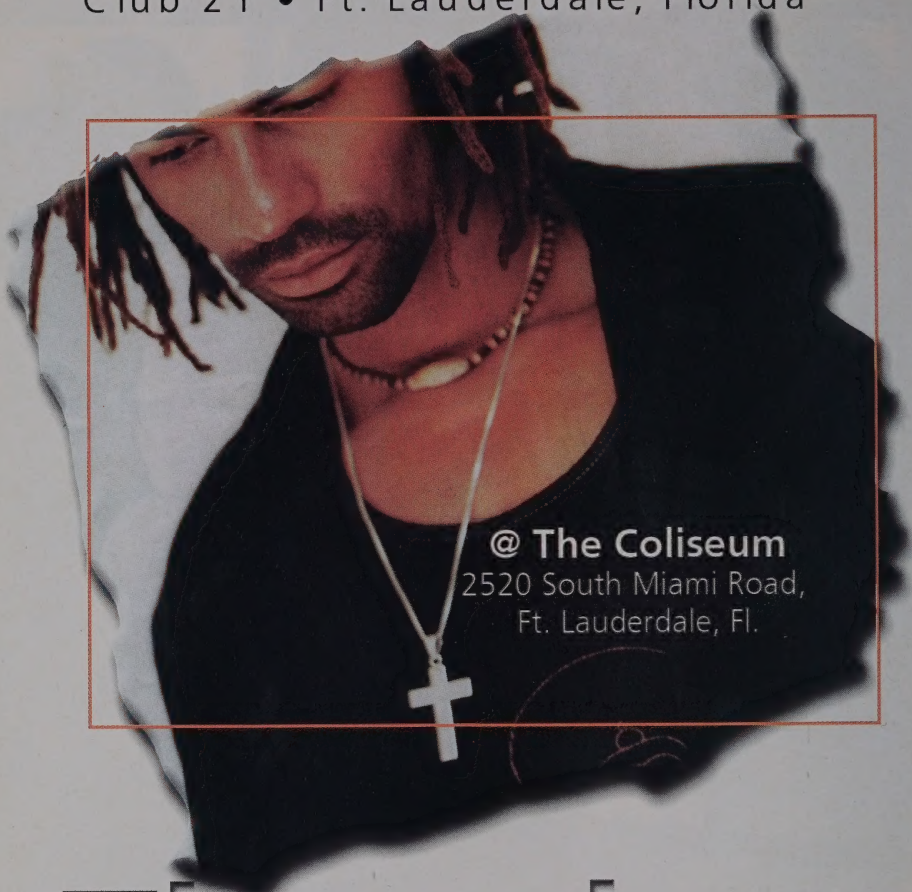

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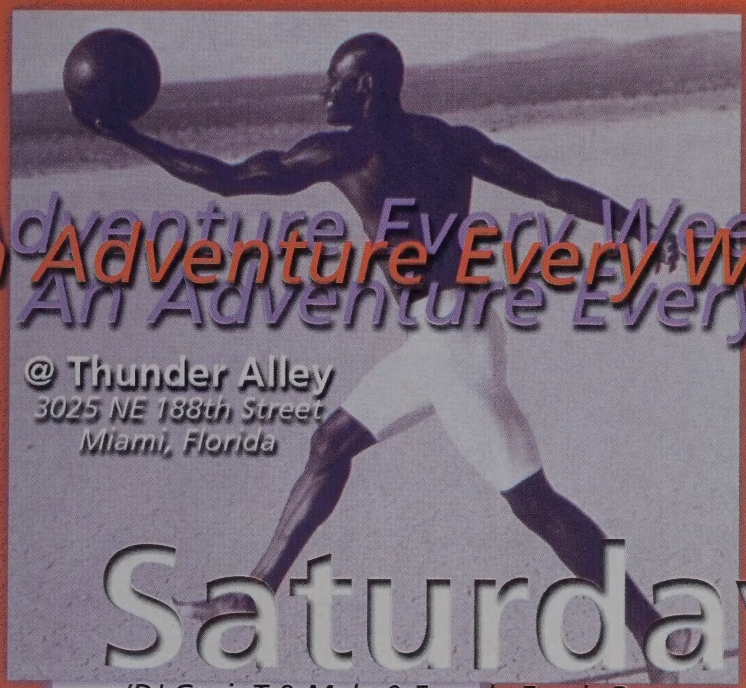

Saturdays

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MARCH 4TH

Lost Boyz Night

- $5 Admission until 12:30
- Drink Specials Until 1am
- $100 Dance-off Competition

MARCH 11TH

Girlz Night Out

- $5 Admission until 12:30
- Drink Specials Until 1am
- $100 Sexy Underwear Contest

MARCH 18TH

St. Patricks Day Celebration

- $5 Admission until 2:30

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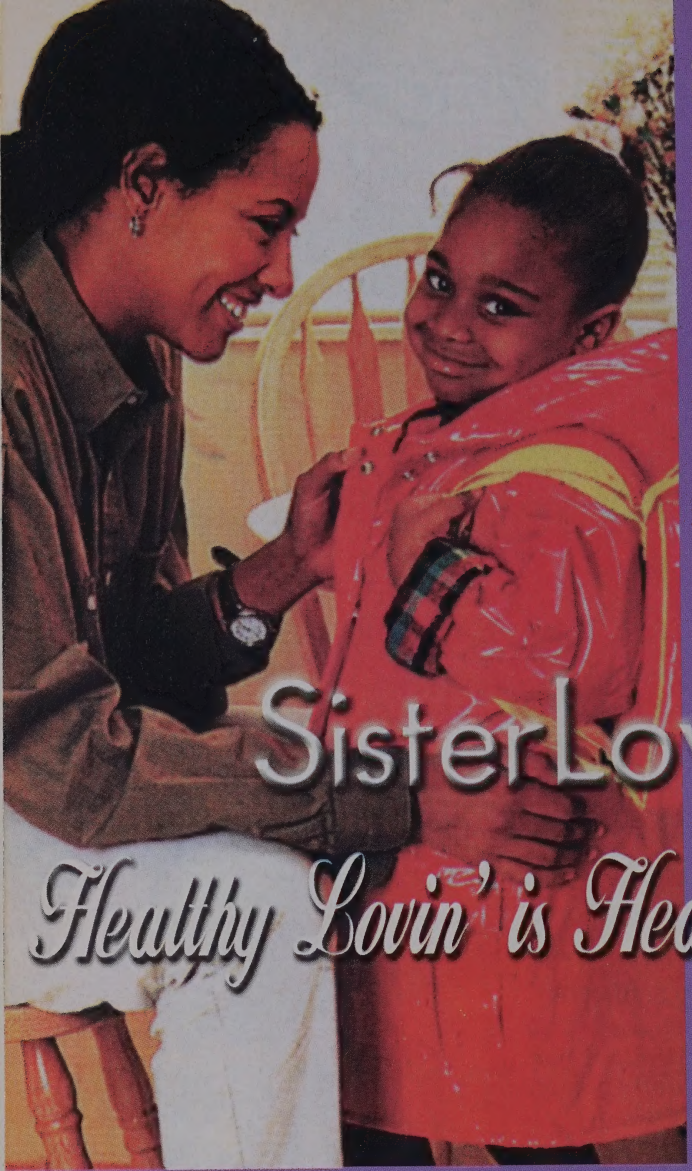

About SisterLove:

SisterLove Is an Atlanta HIV/AIDS organization serving the specific needs of women and their children. Founded July 1989 by Da'zon Dixon, and a dedicated group of volunteers, determined to make a difference in the lives of women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

SisterLove currently serves over 200 HIV+ women and their families with a variety of services and coordinated care with other agencies.

SisterLove Inc.

Healthy Lovin' is Healthy Livin'

Services:

- Treatment/Emotional Support
- Emergency/Transitional Housing for women and their children
- Food and Child Care
- Women Specific Programs
- Reproductive Health Issues
- Human Rights Education
- Healthy Love Programs
- International Health

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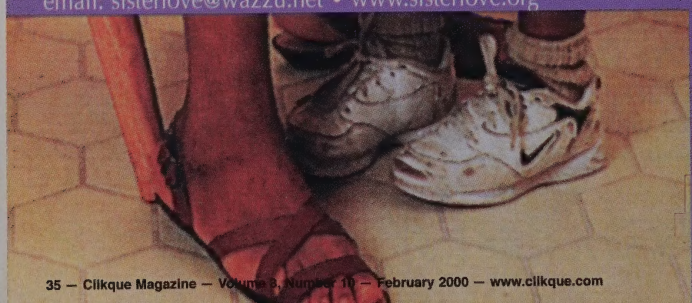

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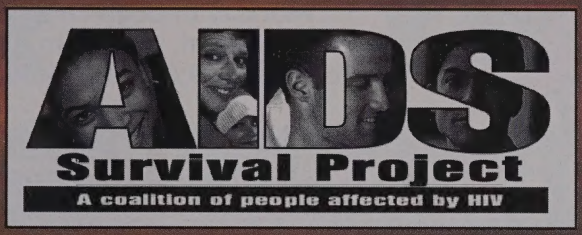

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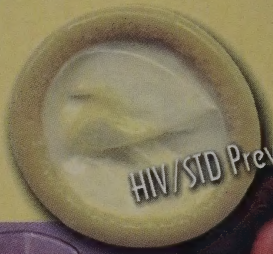

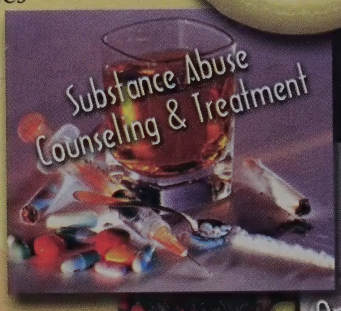

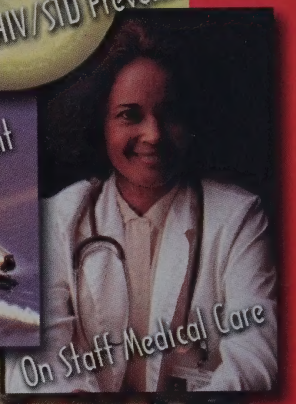

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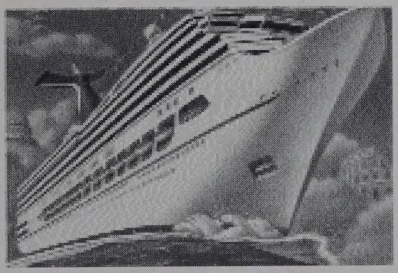

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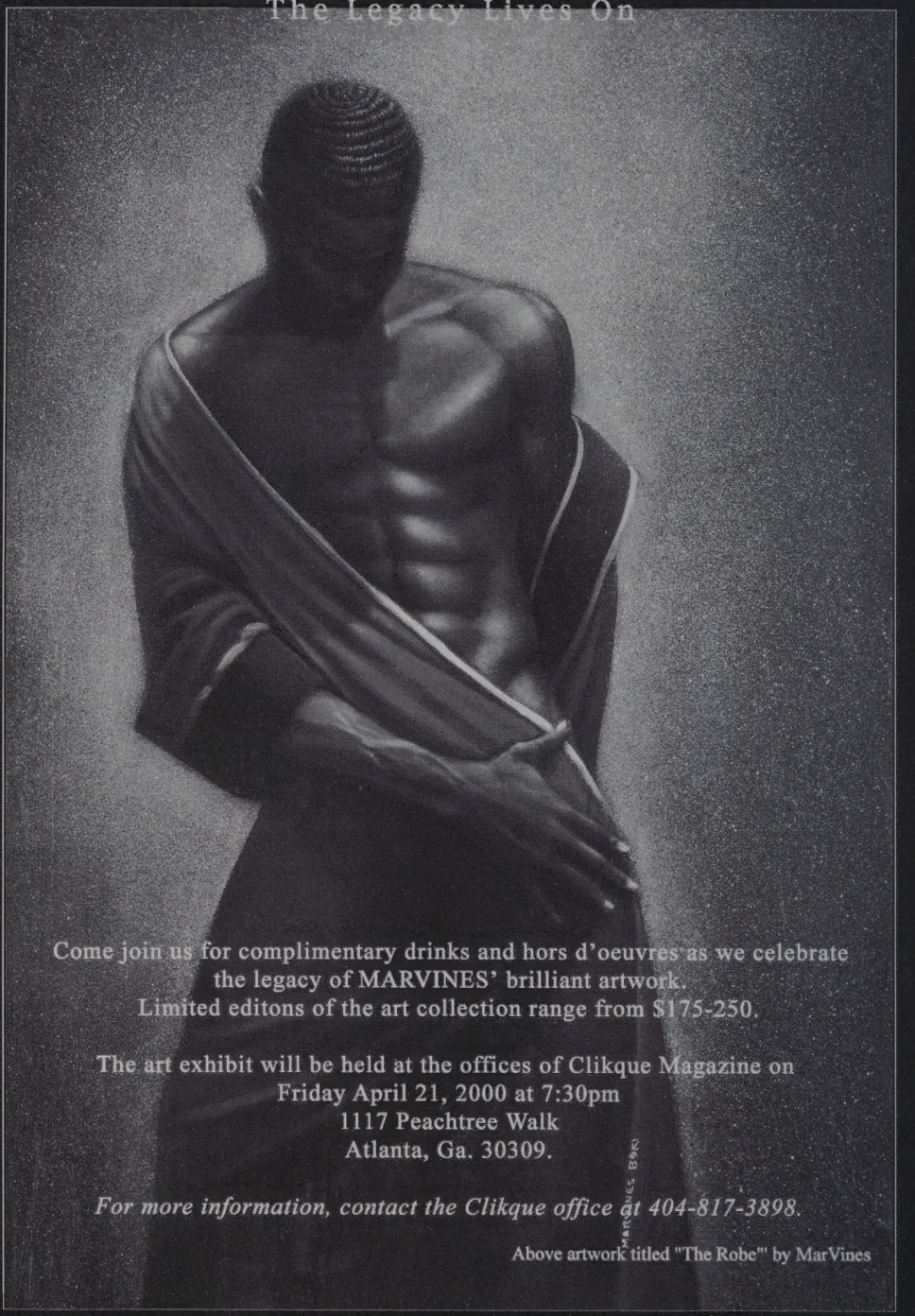

Come join us for complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres as we celebrate the legacy of MARVINES' brilliant artwork.
Limited editons of the art collection range from $175-250.

The art exhibit will be held at the offices of Clikque Magazine on
Friday April 21, 2000 at 7:30pm
1117 Peachtree Walk
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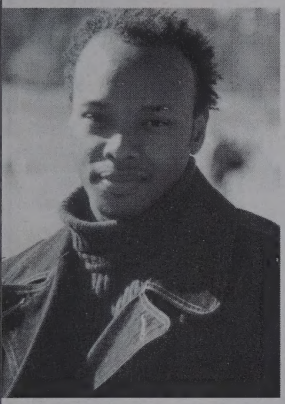
For more information, contact the Clikque office at 404-817-3898.

Above artwork titled "The Robe" by MarVines

CLIKQUE EVENTS

Clikque Magazine



Greetings Clikque Readers !!!

Come join us in New Orleans this month as we hold a launch party featuring Terryl Lynn-Foxx/Miss Clikque America & Tim Bolhar / Mr. Clikque America. The festivities will be held at CLUB WOLFENDALES on March 17th, 2000. Look for details in the New Orleans launch party advertisement.

Be on the lookout next month for Clikque Magazine's Anniversary weekend celebration starting off with a fabulous art exhibit featuring art work by the late Marvin Vines on April 21, 2000. On the following day Clikque will be giving its official anniversary party at TRAXX NIGHTCLUB/April 22, 2000. See you There!
JAMES MARTIN, EVENTS MANAGER

CLIKQUE WORLD CALENDER: Clikque wants to know what is going on around the nation. Please let us know about special events, regular events/meetings/support groups, and other happenings and "going's-on" in your town, city, state, or organization.

SUBMISSIONS: Clikque is always interested in submissions of stories, poetry, articles, or excerpts from you our readers and sponsors. Your submission can be considered for publication at anytime from the date we receive it. If you include contact information we will let you know when, and if, your work will be published. Our editor will also respond to every submission, published or not. The deadline for submissions for time sensitive materials is the 2nd Thursday of each month, for publication in the following month's issue. Clikque reserves the right to publish or refuse to publish any materials submitted.

Forward Calender information or Submissions material to our copy editor, Darryl! , at Clikque Magazine to our office via e-mail or snail mail. Materials can be sent typed and printed, on 3.5 disk in Simple Text, MSWord, or Wordperfect, or via e-mail: Clikquem@aol.com. For more information or instructions contact our office.

March 17th — New Orleans, La
Magazine Launch Party

April 21 — Atlanta, Ga.
Anniversary Party / Atlanta

May 4-7 — Houston,Tx
Splash/Anniversary Pool Party

May 26-29, Washington DC
DC. Pride (Memorial Day Wknd)

June 9-11, Tampa, Fl
Tampa Jamz 2000 (Beach Party)

June 16-18, Memphis, TN
Memphis Pride - Party

June 30-July 2,, New York, NY
New York Pride - Party

July 7-9 Chicago, IL
Chicago Pride - Pool Party

July 14-16, Detroit, Mi
Detroit Pride - Pool Party

August 6, Atlanta, Ga.
CLIKQUE FIERCE AWARDS

September 1-4
Atlanta Pride - A Surprise

October 29, Atlanta, Ga
Queens of Comedy Revue

November 19, Atlanta, Ga.
CLIKQUE FASHION SHOW

December 15, Atlanta, Ga.
CLIKQUE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Other events are also scheduled, details to follow. If you would like to be on our... ***MAILING LIST*** Visit Us At

www.clikque.com

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MISS CLIKQUE AMERICA
2000
Terryl-Lynn Foxx
Clikque America Pageantry System
CAPS

TRANS - CENTRAL STATION

Monthly Column By Teryl-Lynn Foxx, Miss Clikque America 2000

I am Teryl-Lynn Foxx of New Orleans, the newly crowned Miss Clikque America. Upon winning the title, I have been given the opportunity to write a monthly column and address an issue of concern to me. Being a member of the transgendered community, I am deeply concerned about misconceptions regarding transgendered persons. In the forthcoming months, I hope to clarify some of these misconceptions.

I will not use this column to provide hair and makeup tips, the do's and don'ts of perfecting the art of illusion and female impersonation, or information regarding forthcoming pageants or show events.

The main thrust of this column will be to educate the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered community regarding what has been termed the transgendered phenomenon. Through education comes understanding, and from understanding comes acceptance. We all want to be accepted, by our families, friends, and society as a whole. That covers the entire population, not just transgenders.

I do not see my charter from the publisher as a license to embroil the magazine and its readers in a brouhaha regarding inequities experienced by transgenders. Controversies such as the stalemate between various TG organizations and TG activists and the Human Rights Committee's failure to include TGs in either its mission statement or ENDA legislative efforts are better addressed in other forums by persons better qualified than I am to address these important issues. That is not my forte and I gratefully acknowledge the efforts of these dedicated activists.

Our special transgendered community is made up of different individuals with as many varied needs as there are individuals. Even within the transgendered community, we have factions that seem to be at odds with other factions over what comprises a transgendered person.

There are pre-ops, post-ops, and even non-ops. To put it succinctly, if you still have "it," the politically correct term is pre-operative; if "it" is gone, you're post-operative; and if you have no need or desire for sexual reassignment surgery, then you're non-operative. Confusing? You bet—even to those of us in the transgendered community. But, regardless of one's op status, we are all sisters, seeking the same happiness and respect.

I would hope that in some way my columns would unite the transgendered community in its commonality, to educate all segments of that community regarding the particular needs of each segment of the community. In addition, I would hope that other members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community will come to know who and what transgendered people are and extend to us the respect and acceptance we seek.

You may be wondering "Who is Teryl-Lynn Foxx and why is she Miss Clikque?" I have been a transgendered person since my early twenties. I live 7 and 24 as a woman. I am not a man in a dress for sexual gratification. I am a woman.
Some of you may have seen me performing on the gay cabaret circuit, particularly in the southeast section of our country. You may have also seen me competing in many female illusion pageants. I have been fortunate to have won many titles and crowns, including the recent Miss Clikque pageant. I have also appeared on several television shows, the most recent being The Morry Povich Show. I am a college graduate, have taught high school, and have worked in the business world. I am no different from thousands of others, except I now have the honor of being Miss Clikque and writing this column. To learn more about me, visit my webpage at www.gayamerica.com/teryllynnfoxx/.

I hope everybody will find the column enlightening, entertaining, and informative. If you have any specific questions or would like information on the transgendered life and its community, please write to me at the magazine, or e-mail me at clikquem@aol.com, and I will attempt to bring understanding.

Endless love,
Teryl-Lynn

About Our Queen

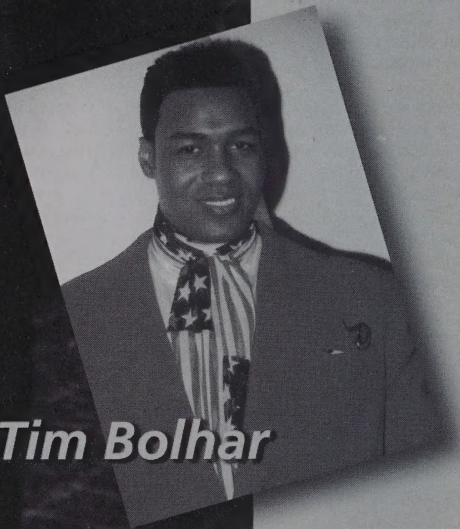
Born under the astrological sign of Leo the Lion, Teryl-Lynn Foxx, the current Miss Clikque America, began life in New Orleans as Terry Sanders. At birth, the attending physician told Teryl-Lynn's parents that this was a "special" child, a statement that has been proven true time and time again.

A graduate of the University of New Orleans with a bachelor's degree in Speech Education, Teryl-Lynn was a high school teacher in the New Orleans school system. However, as a devotee' and practitioner of the art of female illusion, Teryl-Lynn left the teaching profession to devote her time, energy, and talent to perfecting her art. For the past twenty years Teryl-Lynn has developed as a performer, and has achieved recognition as a female illusion star. Miss Foxx has twice been named Entertainer of the Year in New Orleans and was given a Lifetime Achievement Award in appreciation of her many efforts in promoting the art of female illusion.

As a member of the New Orleans gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, Teryl-Lynn has been active in many fundraisers for the community and AIDS causes. She has been a volunteer at a local AIDS hospice and is currently involved with the Metropolitan Community Church's Living Room Program. Teryl-Lynn also serves on the Board of Directors of the New Orleans Gay Appreciation Awards.

An avowed champion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights, Teryl-Lynn has participated in various activities to promote such rights. As a transgendered person personally familiar with the emotional trauma endured by that community, Teryl-Lynn will use her monthly column in Clikque Magazine to inform and educate our readers on the specialness of transgenders.

Mr. Clikque America 2000



Tim Bolhar

Clikque America Pageantry System
CAPS

Crusade For The Children

Monthly Column By Tim Bolhar, Mr. Clikque America 2000

I am a product of Chicago, I was a very small child, born and reared in a small community known as Cabrini Green, in Chicago. Cabrini Green was poverty stricken, drug infested and racked with gang violence. As I became a teenager I knew deep down inside that I was destined for greatness and in order for me to succeed I had to protect my life from harm's way. I had to get an education and occupation. I spent time visiting my wise elders and friends who inspired me and encouraged me to keep a level head. Over time I began to realize that I had a passion for children, especially those in poverty stricken situations, who have suffered terrible abuse, been involved with gangs or otherwise disenfranchised. Thus began my Crusade for the Children.

I began my crusade working for the State of Illinois at the Marrguill Academy, a child care agency under the direct auspices of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Specifically, my job allowed me to serve as an educator and motivational leader. I was enthused because I was given the opportunity to realize my passion to help these young people become independent, responsible, and respectable adults. These children, who had been abandoned by parents, abused (mentally, physically, and sexually), or neglected had suffered trying to make it in life with little or no direction. To say that the children were angry would be an understatement; this anger would often erupt in violent episodes that interfered with any hope or opportunity the children may have had of having a sane existence.

I began to see my crusade as a gift from God, and recognized it as my Christian duty to offer light, love, and life to these children. They had to find a way to respect themselves and respect others so that their moral character would be strong so that in the future they too could crusade for the next generation of children. I accept the fact that it takes a village to raise a child but these children are a part of that village and they will be needed to carry the light on to the next lineage of children. They will become this village's next rolemodels. The question is what will we allow them to learn to be a rolemodel?

These children, here in Chicago and there, wherever you are, need our help. It takes more than just their families it takes all of us to make a difference in their young lives. So as we go boldly into this millennium- this new beginning- let us show our concern for our babies by educating, motivating, and supporting the fruitful exploration of their minds' potential. This is what I believe. This is what I live for. This is my Crusade for the Children. Crusade2000.

About Our King

Tim was born and reared in the City of Chicago, the middle child of eleven (11) brothers and sisters. Tim started modeling with a small group, Adam and the Paper Dolls as a child. Years later he auditioned and joined a modeling tour group The Vogue Estq*** Models of Chicago. Tim's success was a surprise for him and his family as he hit the runways of 80 Fashion Shows in 3 1/2 months. Tim toured with this group for over three years eventually developing a name for himself as a designer, as well.

Tim began designing a line of men's wear, Lebolh's Designs, in 1986; that same year he began modeling for Johnson Hair Products. In 1990, Tim, became a production model for Durham Hair Products, doing many poster ads and fashion spreads. In 1995 Tim's television appearances included the Jenny Jones Show and Leeza. In that same year, Tim, became a creative stage director and model for Revlon. Tim won the title of Mr. Black Universe 1996-97 and four years later is the first Mr Clikque America (2000). Tim is working hard to be the #1 male entertainer with his commanding performances, appearance and personality, and elegant style. Tim currently works daily with Chicago's youth, models for Revlon, runs his own fashion company and does fashion shows around the country. Tim Bolhar, your current reigning, Mr. Clikque America 2000.

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CLIKQUE ONEROTICA

Clikque Magazine

Part IX

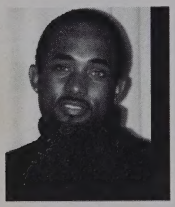
DOOR "655"

Here it is guys, another hot episode. Last month, you found out how freaky Uncle Wes could be. William, thinking that he would find an angry Craig at his uncles house, instead finds something that he wasn't quite ready for. Yes, his Uncle Wes is hosting a sex party. Men are everywhere, having sex. The scene is too much for William, so he gets the hell out of Dodge. He returns home only to find an intoxicated Craig at his door step. All that Craig could say was that he needed William. For what? Anyway, the story picks up here where William helps Craig to his feet and into his apartment.

William led Craig back to his bedroom. Craig continued to cry and mumble as he laid on William's shoulder.

"Come on man, Come on Craig, its alright man. Come on!" William said as he opened his door. He laid Craig across his bed. Craig continued to mumble and sob. William untied his shoes and pulled each one off. Craig was jelly in his hands. He started to unbutton his shirt. Suddenly, Craig jerked up, with tears in his eyes.

"I'm sorry William. I'm so fucking sorry William. I need you. I need you William.."



written by senior staff writer
Queshan Hayes atlanta, ga.

"Come on Craig. Relax," he said as he gently pushed him back down. He then undid his pants and pulled them down. He didn't realize that Craig's body was just as nice as his; smaller, but just as nice. He paused for a moment. He shook his head when he realized that he was standing there admiring another man's body. His heart began to beat faster as the view of Craig's body took his mind back to the orgy scene that he had just experienced.

"What the fuck is wrong with me?" he questioned as he turned to walk away. He began to close his door, but stopped and took one last look at Craig laying there in boxer briefs and nothing else.

"Why do you need me, Craig?" he said to himself as he closed the door. He walked out into the living room. He sat down on his couch and took off his shoes. He made himself comfortable as he reached for the sheet at he end of the couch. He clicked on the television. In a matter of minutes he was asleep.

****

How he knew where William's bathroom was, he did not know. He just knew that he had to piss. He stood there in front of the toilet and just let it flow. Finishing up, he washed his hands and flipped the light off. He decided to see if William was awake. He opened the bedroom door and made his way down the hall. There was William, sprawled across the couch. One of his legs was drooped over the edge. The sheet was at his waist and covered him to his ankles. He had taken off his shirt and Craig stood there looking over him admiring each and every cut of his chiseled chest. The only light came from the television, casting shadows throughout the room. Craig walked over to turn it off.

"Don't do that," said William as Craig froze from fear. "I'm watchin' that," he said in a sexy baritone voice.

"Oh, I'm sorry, William.. I thought you were asleep."

"Nope, I'm wide awake. Look!" he said as he dramatically threw the sheet off to reveal that he was butt ass naked. His dick was hard as a steel pole and pointed straight up.

"Yep, I'm wide awake, and...and...so is he," he said as he licked his lips, looked down towards his dick, and then looked at Craig dead in the eyes. Craig could not believe this was happening. His heart began to beat uncontrollably, his mouth got dry, and his own dick began to grow.

"Come here, Craig," William said as he began to stroke his dick. "I'm not what you need. This is what you need, Craig. Come on, man. It will be our little secret. Come here, boy."

Craig could not control himself. He immediately walked over to the couch and knelt between it and the coffee table. He put his hand over William's and began to help him stroke that huge dick with his other hand and he cupped William's balls and rubbed his slightly hairy inner thighs. William opened his legs wider to feel the complete sensation of Craig's warm hands. Soon he began to gyrate his hips into Craig's hand. Craig couldn't hold back any longer. He had to get a taste. He leaned closer to William's body and slowly opened his mouth. The manly scent of William's crotch teased his nostrils. He opened his mouth wide as the head of William's dick brushed past the roof of his mouth. William let out a moan as he

CLIKQUE ONEROTICA

Clikque Magazine

Part IX

Door "655"

grabbed Craig's head and forced himself down Craig's throat.

"Yeah, Craig, suck it, baby. Suck that dick, nigga." Craig began to hungrily slurp William's dick. William began to moan and groan as ran his hands over Craig's head, neck, and ears. William's moans and touch made Craig wild with desire to have him inside his secret place. Then in one quick movement, William grabbed Craig's head and just said, "Stop! I want to fuck you...."

Craig's eyes widened as he looked into William's eyes and then back at his dick.

"Come on, you know you want to . Come on Cee Cee." Craig stood up and removed his boxer briefs. William reached under the couch and pulled out a black magnum and some lube. In a matter of seconds, he was covered and lubed up. He passed the bottle to Craig. Craig squeezed out a small amount on two of his fingers and worked it into his ass. He then put one foot up on the couch between William's thigh and the couch. He kept the other foot on the floor. William reached over and held Craig's waist on both sides . Craig grabbed William's dick and slowly guided it into his ass. He slowly slid down on it with an ease that made William call out the Lord's name in vain. Craig, too, began to moan with pleasure.

"Ride this dick, Craig. Ride this shit, boy," William growled. Craig soon began to bounce up and down on William's dick.

"Yeah, take that dick, boy take that dick. That's some good ass, boy, hell yeah!. Damn, nigga. That shit is better than my girl's shit. Take it Craig. Damn, that shit is tight!" Craig still could not believe that this was actually happening. It was all too much. He closed his eyes to enjoy the ride. He moaned with pleasure as he thought of all the many nights that he dreamed of this night. He then wanted to look into William's eyes to see how much pleasure he was experiencing. He rolled his head back up to face William. He slowly opened his eyes. There, below him was no longer William. It was Tony!!!! Craig couldn't believe his eyes.

"Yeah Cee Cee ride this dick. Ride it baby!!"

"Noooooooo!" yelled Craig as he sat straight up in William's bed. His chest pounded as he tried to catch his breath. Soon, he realized he was in William's apartment.

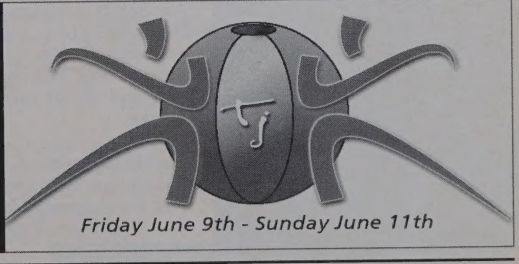
"It was a fuckin' dream! Thank God," he said rubbing his temples. "It was so real! But where in the hell did Tony come from?" He then noticed that he was almost naked. "What is going on? What did I do last night? Damn, my head is killing me," he said as he pulled the covers away. He knew that he had the hangover from hell. He could not remember anything from last night. Then, he wondered where William was. He stood up, went to the door, and slowly opened it. He could hear the static of the television. William was still asleep. There he was, sprawled across the couch. And there IT was, wishing Craig a 'good morning'. William's dick was standing straight up under the thin sheet that barely covered his waist. Craig paused for a minute or two, savoring the view, yet thinking how ironic it was. Could his dream be materializing? He was too scared to move towards the television. So, he stood there. But soon, his own dick began to grow. He slowly reached down to grab it. He was actually getting turned on by just staring at the impression of William's dick against the sheet. He began to stroke his own dick as he stood there admiring William's erection. All he thought about was the smell, the taste, the feel of that hot dick from his dream. He stood there in the shadows, jacking off. With his other hand, he began pinching and rubbing his nipples. William could wake up at any minute, but Craig was too close. He was on the edge of shooting. The idea of William catching him made it all the more pleasurable. And soon, he was there.

"Oh shit, oh shit," he whispered. And in a matter of minutes, he was spewing his fluids all over his hands and his underwear. Finally catching his breath, he stood there for a few seconds, staring at William's erection. "Damn, that was good William," he whispered to himself. He then walked back to William's bedroom to take a shower.

William rolled over on his side and opened one eye. Craig had walked away. He then rolled back over to face the television screen. He smiled to himself, closed his eyes, and went back to sleep.

STAY TUNED TO NEXT MONTH....

COMING SOON



Friday June 9th - Sunday June 11th

LETSREAD
Book Reviews & Signings

African-American Publishing and Life Partners Read at Outwrite

Ricc Rollins to Read from Sequel Breathe Again; Lorenzo Robertson to Read Eclectic Essence

On Sunday, March 19, 2000 @ 7:30 PM, Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse will host a joint reading and signing: Breathe Again by Ricc Rollins and Eclectic Essence: Poetry for the Heart and Mind by Lorenzo Robertson.

Breathe Again is the sequel to the acclaimed Like Breathing, Rollins' first novel and Ishai Books' first title. Breathe Again continues the modern-day story of a black gay man facing professional triumphs and personal tragedies that cause him to question his faith and purpose.

Eclectic Essence: Poetry for the Heart, Mind and Soul explores Robertson's thoughts and feelings in an uncluttered, easy-to-relate-to style. Eclectic Essence reveals the deep emotions that are rarely expressed yet often felt in the many facets of one's life.

Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse has been serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1993.

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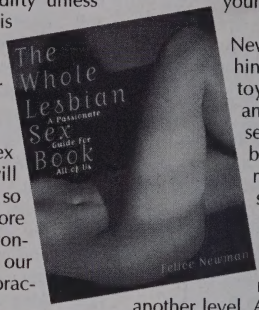
reviewed by
Rev. Dr. Shirlene Holmes PhD
atlanta, ga.

THE WHOLE LESBIAN SEX BOOK:
A Passionate Guide For All of Us By Felice Newman

According to the great philosopher, Redd Foxx, "Sex isn't dirty unless you didn't wash up!" It is time for all of us to embrace our sexual lives with caution, vigor and gratitude.



To have the wonderful sex life you DESERVE, you will have to do the work. It is so important that we be more informed so we can deconstruct and reconstruct our sexual perceptions and practices.

You will want to pick up this very informative and enlightening book. Not only is it intelligent and sexy, it contains humor and guidance.

Newman, who proudly exclaims her sexual prowess in the introduction, and I ain't mad at her, set out to create a guide for the many faces in our community: the lesbian, bisexual, butch, femme, androgynous or transgendered, dyklings and bonafide platinum and gold card carrying bulldaggers. In this book, the author opens a new world for any woman who is going from a subconscious to a conscious attraction and sexual involvement with women.

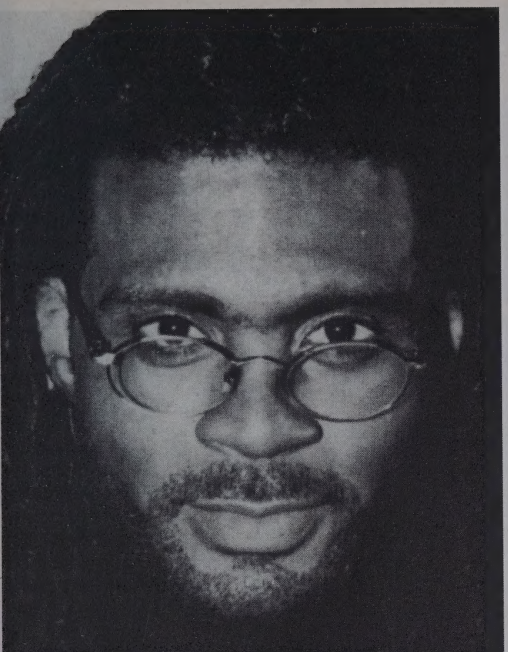
The Whole Leshic~n Sex Book gives tips on how to find sex partners and how to talk openly with lovers about sex. In addition, it gives the how-to on achieving big and bad orgasms, and techniques that will get you where you want to go in the bedroom or the back seat of the car or wherever I'm gonna stay outta your business.

Newman gives helpful hints in choosing sex toys and shares tips and techniques on safe sex play such as fun bondage and dominance and submission. Now, if this ain't your thing, you can still use this book to take your romantic thang to another level. And it's about another level.

Finally, this book offers the latest research on sexual health for lesbian and bisexual women, including women-to-woman sexually transmitted diseases. In addition, the book concludes with a resource guide with hundreds of books, magazines, web sites, retail and mail order outlets, e-mail discussions lists, gender resources and S/M organizations.

This book is a good read and a good guide. Pick it up and take your understanding and love life to another level.

On a last note, the book would be more enticing to all of us, if the cover was more representative of all us. The bottom half of a white woman does not speak to all of our sensibilities.



Sweet Cornbread & Hot Green Tea

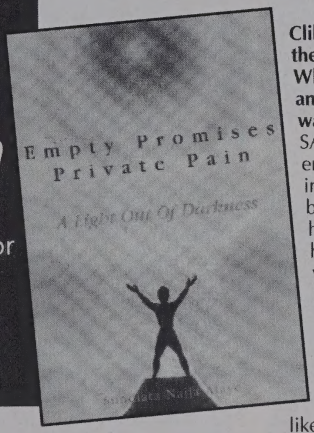
interview with Sundiata Alaye' author of Empty Promises, Private Pain: A Light Out of Darkness .

by Darryl!

After previewing Empty Promises, Private Pain: A Light Out of Darkness and talking to the author we decided to have a more indepth conversation about his inspiration and passion for writing the book. Our copy editor, Darryl! caught up with Alaye' at his studio in Memphis, TN.

Over the phone, Alaye´, sounds relaxed and ready to face the public interest and scrutiny that comes with this kind of publication. His voice and manner exude a quiet-earthy-soul-brother kind of confidence that immediately puts the listener at ease and draws you into his conversation, as if you have known him and been friends for years. Alaye´ believes that what he has created and produced will be a "light out of darkness" as a helpful and effective tool for African-American gay men, specifically, but for anyone, male or female, seeking personal healing and movement towards building a better self and relationships.

Clikque: What inspired you to write this book?
SA: The conditions in the community. I see so many people who are hurting, I remember being in that place and I didn't know it. And even when I realized it I didn't know how to get out of it. Many brothers are coming out but with no direction... It was time because I found my freedom. I never envisioned that this was what I would be doing but I could not be silent anymore.



Clikque: Tell me about the process of writing. What did it do for you and what effect do you want it to have?
SA: This is not the be all end all- I am not standing on Mt Sinai next to be burning bush- or holier than thou. I have had these experiences I write about them in the book- we all know what it is like to have to discover our sexuality and what a trauma that is for some of us. We all know what it is like to be in a relationship and be insecure with who we are with. Most of us know what it is like to be cheated on or have an unfaithful companion. Most of us know the experience of the pain of separation of a relationship breaking up, and we also know the pain of loss and grief.

Clikque: Tell us about the process of writing this book...what did it do for you and what do you want it to do for others:

SA: First of all I left my home in Washington and got a studio in Memphis- I needed to get out of that area and focus so I could hear the work. The book has been very cathartic... although I had done some healing before writing but writing "made me go deeper than ever before into my history... it caused me to dredge up some of the old residue that I did not know was still there from the past.

Sundiata Alaye will be appearing in Atlanta
March 12th @ 6:30PM
Sponsored By The Men Of
Second Sunday
Atlanta Lambda Center
828 W. Peachtree Street
Suite 207

Naturally, as a writer ...my warmest dream is that it will change peoples lives and giver them some insight into the importance of loving themselves more... that it is essential- critical even, that we find ourselves again. But at a minimum what I want to do is to just stop the brothers for a minute- just for a half-second and challenge them to think differently about who they are #1; and # 2 about their motivations.

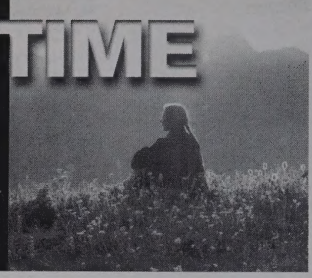
Clikque: Resulting in what?

Continues On Page 64

POETRY TIME
Clikque Magazine

If you've got some poetry that you would like to share with the rest of the country, then send them to us at:

1117 Peachtree Walk NE, Suite 125
Atlanta Ga. 30309
email: clikquem@aol.com or www.clikque.com



FULL OF EMPTINESS
by Khalid D. Idawu

Like waves
rushing to kiss the shore
this feeling
unbound
roars through me
Like the wind
whispering in your ear
this feeling
deafening
calls out to me

It's haunting melody
brash
and off key
triste and distinct
always there
to remind me
Of this desolate heart
filled with despair
memories and tears
of love
no longer there

Something inside
so very strong
filling me
like the hollow
fills the log

This feeling
saturates me
a young man
both Black and gay
An eclectic mind
in total disarray
needing acceptance
and longing to be heard
annihilating
infuriating
brimming
and condemning
filling me
crippling me
filling me
I'm so very full

"TEMPORARY PLEASURE"
by Todd Edwards

Decorated with semen, I yearn for the mammoth inside me. Slowly it slithers within cavity deep, wet, dank, soaked. The lower extremities of my body ignite with blazing hot intensity, I quiver at the sound of his heavy breath, an erotic phonic.

We lay exhausted, content, emotionally charged for the moment. His flesh glistens with sweat. His breath, warm and sweet. His lips, full and red the color of blood. His presence makes me secure and confident.

Sheets white, embossed with muscle and flesh. We lay quitely and sleep intensively until morning.

"INVISIBLE LOVER"
by C. "Doc" Hoskins Jr.

Neither doesn't know . . .
that there exists another.
I'm caught in between
and I continuously lust for the other.

I'M NOT CONFUSED.
I come and go as I please.
I've got the 'vantage of both worlds
The pleasure of picking . . . with ease.

I'm the ultimate lover.
I please this one and that one.
It's like playing a game,
that has no laughter.

I touch them here
and lick that one there.
My developed technique
gives pleasurable fear.

I should choose and be happy.
But the world is full of choices
Only the future will tell
if I'll have to deal with inner voices.

Oh, I've had commitments
and relationships,
But never to wed.
But I gets no complaints
when I'm kicking it in bed.

I have a powerful gift for pleasure,
and I MUST share it like a true friend.
I've been dealt the best hand
and I'll play my cards till the end.

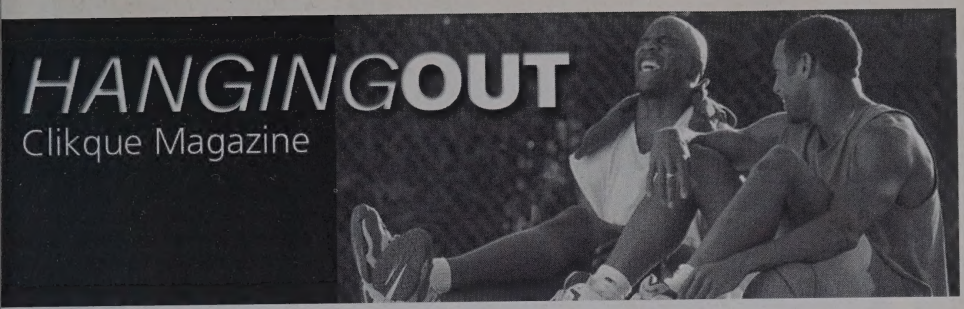
SHADE'S LAMENT
Khalid D. Idawu
For my brotha ShadeTree

You silently walked in
unexpressed
Completely changing this...
this entombment called my life
There has been an entente
without my consent
An invite by former, would-be or
so-called lovers
This is the abode of a Nubian Prince
My home!
No welcoming was thrown by my court
for the likes of you
but...that isn't your style...is it?
Your's is to cease and conquer
I lay awake
on hot, wet sheets, praying for an escape
repulsed by the havoc you wreak
Futile attempts with poisonous libations
to ease my di-ease and hide my pain
are met with your laughter
and
a whisper in my ear
"It's all in vain."

Your homicidal tendencies
and nonessential existence
have left me in a fucked-up predicament
This Adonis of the Sun
now cowers in the Moonlight
seeking refuge
in the shadows of misrepresentation
I'm living with you
knowing you
as I watch you
killing...heartlessly...mercilessly...
randomly
Not once, not ever calling authorities
fearing
that I may be next
You're so self assured
sadistically laughing at my plea's
Seemingly loving it all the more when I
beg
"Please, Dear God; leave!"

Silly man, I feel you say
you are well aware
of how it's going to be,
I am a part of you
stronger than you
hating you
needing you
destroying you
loving you
You know me
here for life
your roommate
my name is...(hiv)

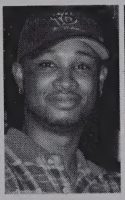
HANGINGOUT
Clikque Magazine

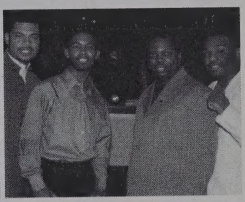


Unity Pride organizer, Bruce Johnson & Friends @ His Birthday Party

Hanging Out In Houston, Texas

Lady Chanel & Company @ Rascals Nightclub

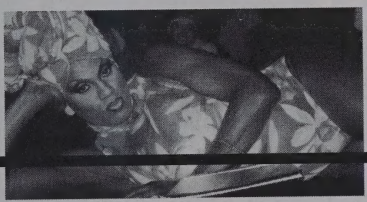


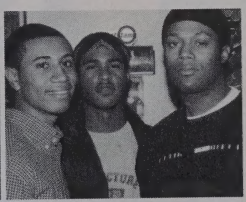


Ladies Tieing the knot @ Rascals

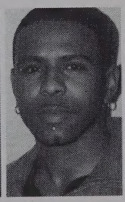
Hanging Out In Houston, Texas

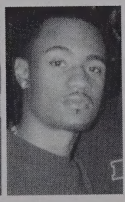
Cuties enjoying Sophia & The Stars of The Century @ Traxx

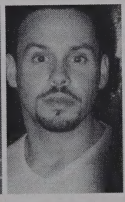




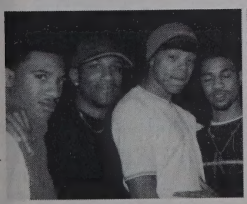
Hanging Out In HotLanda

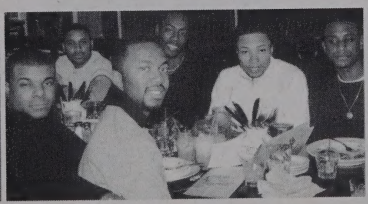


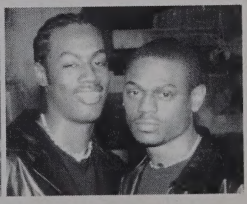


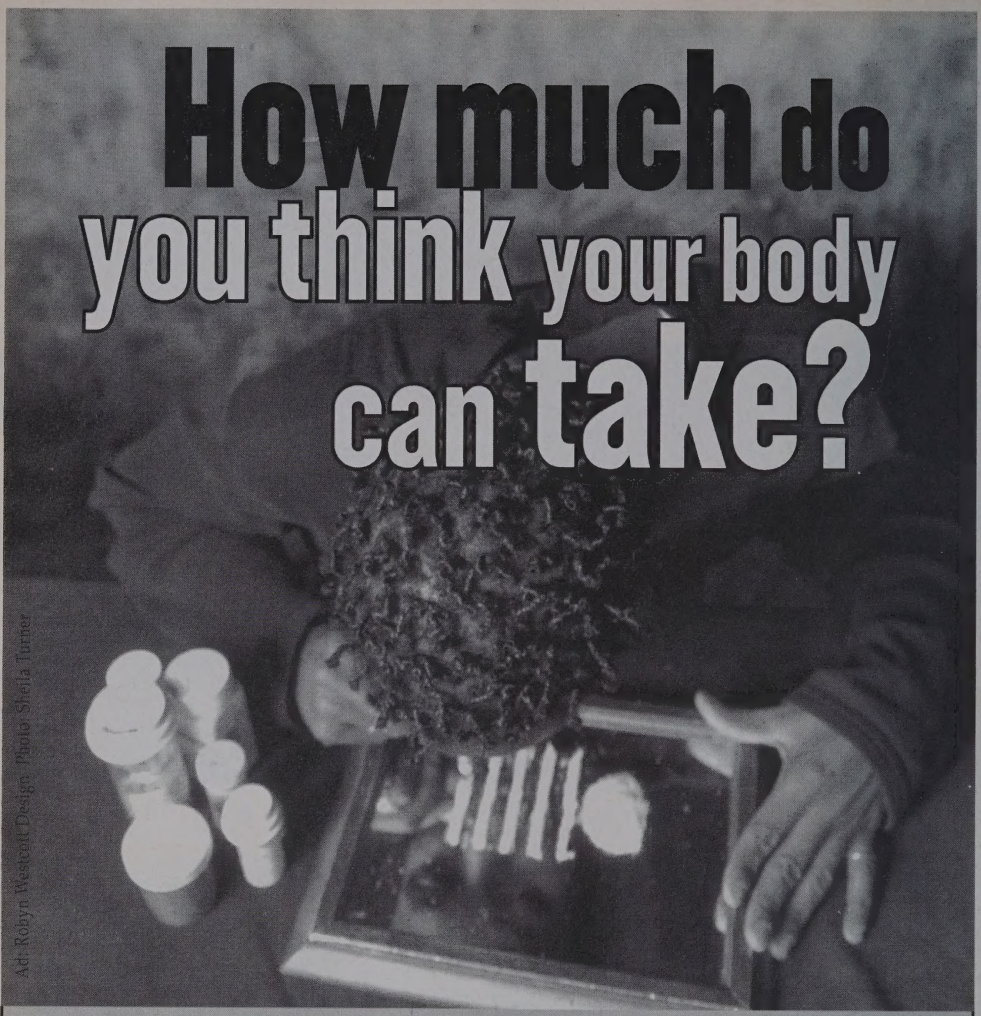


Hotties HANGING**OUT** In The ATL. Our Picks for the month









Ad: Robyn Westcott/Design Photo: Sheila Turner

AIDS medications are hard enough on you without the added stress of drugs. Don't let partying make you forget your medications, and always protect yourself and your partner with a condom. For facts, call 1.800.551.2728. To meet friends in a drug free zone, call AID Atlanta at 404.872.0600 and ask about the PARTY project.

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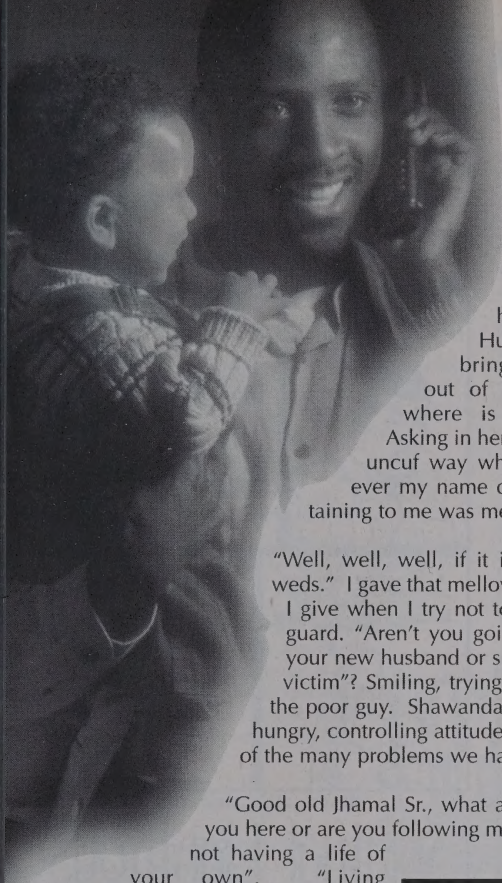


My Son, His Life

The Life of a Gay Father and His Son

Mr. Jhahbriel C.E. Moore-Collins Washington, D.C.

"Mama" was all I needed to hear on this vacation. Jhamal runs to his mother almost knocking her back down into the sand. "What are you doing here Jhamal?" Hugging him as to bring the breathe out of the boy. "And where is your father"? Asking in her normal snappy uncuf way which was whenever my name or anything pertaining to me was mentioned.

"Well, well, well, if it isn't the newlyweds." I gave that mellow dramatic tone I give when I try not to act caught off guard. "Aren't you going to introduce your new husband or should I say new victim"? Smiling, trying not to laugh at the poor guy. Shawanda had this power hungry, controlling attitude which was one of the many problems we had.

"Good old Jhamal Sr., what a surprise to see you here or are you following me for the sake of not having a life of your own". "Living through me or living for me, which either wouldn't surprise me". She gave me that ready to do battle look. "Shawanda darling, it would be a big waste and not in front of "MY" son. She was all geared up for a dangerous reading session. I refuse to display my sharp daggers while my son looked on, not really knowing what was going on. I had too much respect for little man. Besides, I graduated from the school of Better Reads with a Doctorate Degree. Jhamal just stood there between us giving me that look as to say "Ah Dad"! "OK! OK! Break it up kids!" Her husband, a tall heavy sets guy with a mouth full of silver caps, in his mid-30's. As he came between Shawanda and I he puts one arm around her and extends his other to greet me.

"What's up Man"? "My name is Antonio Forrest, but my friends call me Tony." He seemed to be a pretty cool guy. Antonio is what I knew I was going to call him because we would probably never be friends or would we? He had that in love look I use to have with Shawanda. That she would never hurt me. Poor misguided fool. "Well Antonio, I am sure you know who I am by now." "And regardless of what you may have heard, believe only 5% of it". "The other 95% of it, I am sure my lovely x-wife gave you the drag through the mud version." "She has a way of doing that when she lost for words." "Her poor brain doesn't hold that much vocabulary". I can't help but laugh telling Antonio this.

"Your son looks just like you and I see where he gets that sharp tongue from." Antonio started laughing as he was telling me this. He got cool points for that statement. So I guess he might be all right. Shawanda didn't like this at all. She started gathering her things to leave. "Mama, where are you going?. "Jhamal was trying to be a baby all of sudden. The attention was getting to him. He wanted to follow her. "Baby, Mama is on her honeymoon and that doesn't require a third party." "Especially not an x-husband", looking at me rolling her eyes as she was hugging him patting him on the head like some pound puppy.

"Oh by the way, you never told me who you came with Jhamal Sr. or did you hope to come and find some poor lonely woman who is ready to take on anything or anyone?. "Please spare her your dramas." Shawanda was really trying my patience. My heart sake though, because she knew nothing of my personal life or anything. I never had to explain myself to her or anybody. She just stood there with her arms folded like some schoolteacher.

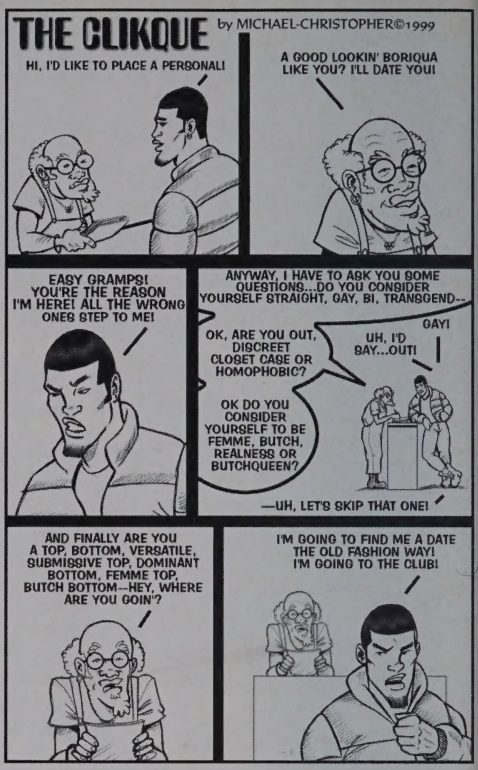
Then, Jhamal tugs on my shorts and says "Daddy, there is Bryant"! Bryant came walking towards us with a tray of drinks balancing a vase of roses for me, smiling from ear to ear.....Now the shit is going to hit the fan.

To Be Continued.....

Don Sneed Continued From Page 9

to a halt. My generation must accept the responsibility for providing experienced, thoughtful and wise leadership in the arenas of healthcare, manhood development, community development, economic development, education and political empowerment to our young brothers. We must make this world a better place for them than it has been for us. To engage in such an endeavor reaffirms our humanity, African ethnicity and confirms our spirituality. To do less than that would taint us as beyond sub-human for even animals will do the same for their succeeding generations. Let us not go cowardly into the latter years of our lives leaving HIV/AIDS as the dominant legacy of our generation. We deserve more and our younger brothers deserve much more than that from us.

It boils down to a matter of choice. Choice - the glory of our humanhood. We can chose to make a different decision. We can chose to pick up our cross and bear it. We can chose to stand up before God, the world and the next generation and manifest ourselves as the Black Gold of the Son through our deeds of service to humanity. Until next month; may God's Peace be with you all, my brothers and sisters.


THE CLIKQUE
by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER©1999
HI, I'D LIKE TO PLACE A PERSONAL!
A GOOD LOOKIN' BORIQUA LIKE YOU? I'LL DATE YOU!
EASY GRAMPS! YOU'RE THE REASON I'M HERE! ALL THE WRONG ONES STEP TO ME!
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS...DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF STRAIGHT, GAY, BI, TRANSGEND--
OK, ARE YOU OUT, DISCREET CLOSET CASE OR HOMOPHOBIC?
GAY!
UH, I'D SAY...OUT!
OK DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE FEMME, BUTCH, REALNESS OR BUTCHQUEEN?
—UH, LET'S SKIP THAT ONE!
AND FINALLY ARE YOU A TOP, BOTTOM, VERSATILE, SUBMISSIVE TOP, DOMINANT BOTTOM, FEMME TOP, BUTCH BOTTOM--HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOIN'?
I'M GOING TO FIND ME A DATE THE OLD FASHION WAY! I'M GOING TO THE CLUB!

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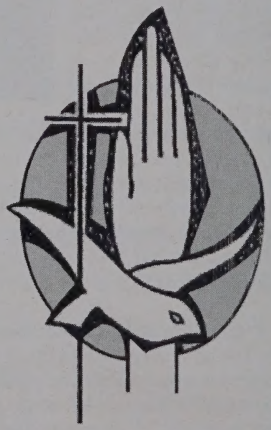

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Sweet Cornbread.. Continued From Page 59

SA: Resulting in change for the better- being more healed, whole, and conscious of love. There are 10 chapters in this book... I guarantee that there is something in there that will touch everyone.

Clikque: What special energy drew you to Memphis as a refuge?
SA: I had never been to Memphis- in fact, when it came to me I did not even know where it was, I prayed for a place and in my prayers Memphis just came to me. I still live in DC but I write in Memphis.

Clikque: Tell us about you, the person.
SA: There is not really much to tell I'm like everybody else. I am originally from NY and attended Howard U. I've been writing for 7 years, I was in corporate america (as an auditor for many years) but I left to write.

Clikque: And your personal life, what is significant?
SA: I love my family and my friends. I'm single and have been single for a number of years. I am a very simple person. I love to party and spend time with the people I love. I am fortunate and blessed to have the people in my life I have known.

Clikque: And what about marriage and children?
SA: I have never been married and I have one son. At age 19 I took custody of him when he was 6 years old. I don't care to get into anymore details of my son, who is now in college. I am very proud of him and I love him very much.

Clikque: What are your plans for the future?
SA: I own my own publishing house and in the spring I will be introducing new writers to the community. Readers can look forward to a new offering from Sundiata in the summer. And a follow up to Empty next fall.

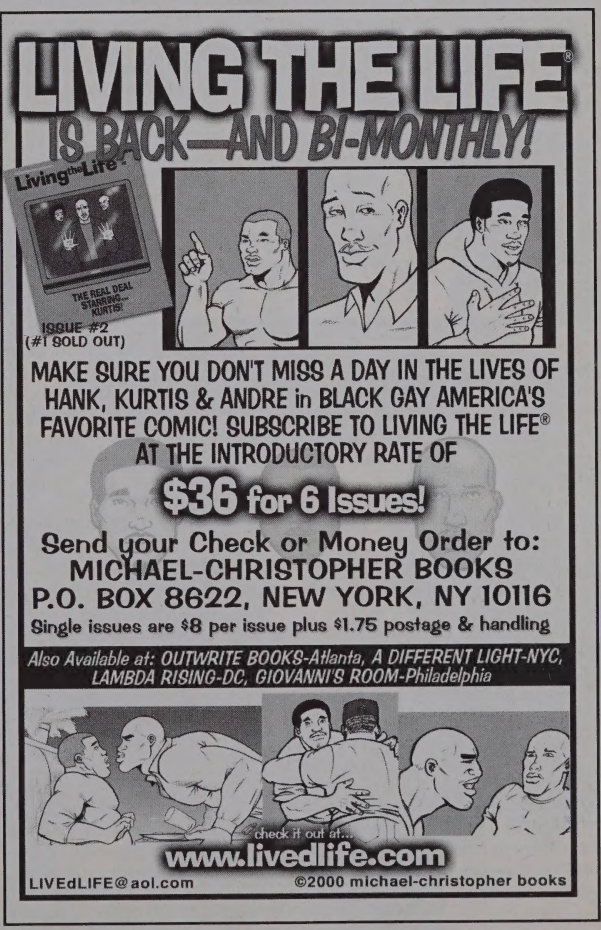
Clikque: Can our readers have a sneak preview of the upcoming book?
SA: All I can give you now is that it will be a collection of poetry, prose, and short stories. I want to offer some light reading after this recent book. I want to convey a message of hope and healing. All my short stories have happy endings ... I love happy endings.

Clikque: What has been the most exciting thing about this book and the current international tour you are on?
SA: Well, of course, I was a bit apprehensive about whether the book would take off and how I could get to the people. I did not know how hard it would be to get bookings and make a living with this. It was amazing that after releasing the book in October I was booked for speaking engagements until APRIL 2000. Recently, I was booked in Canada, and several places in the US, with other dates still pending. I am very excited about all of this.

Clikque: Anything you want to say to your readers:
SA: Yes. It is so important for us to try something new and different. We have been doing the same thing for a long time. We are just emerging, we believe, from an epidemic that has wiped out a whole generation of our friends... There are underlying reasons why we have become so sexual these days... We are acting out our fears, acting out our frustrations, acting out our pain,and we are acting out our loneliness. It is important for us to surface all of those issues in our lives that keep us from living peacefully.

All I want to do and anything I have asked the Creator to allow me to present the readers my brother and sisters is that the message of love and healing is universal and we have to look deep within ourselves for the answers and realize that everything that happens to us happens for a divine purpose and reason. It 's like my Grandfather used to say: "the way a peacock grows its feathers is by eating thorns." I never knew what that meant for years but eventually I realized that what he meant was that it is the harsh things in life we digest that contribute to our beauty.

And, Alaye urges us to be mindful of the current plight of African American's infected and affected by HIV/AIDS "let us not be fooled by the misinformation on AIDS-brothers are still dying . It is not over yet."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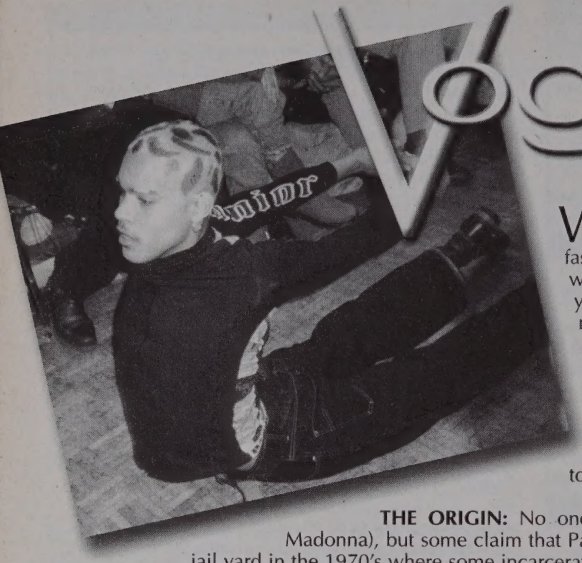
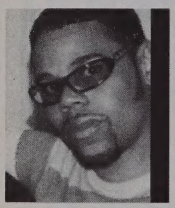
Vogue



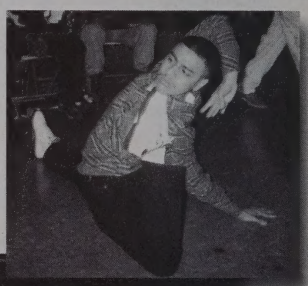
What is vogue? Vogue is not just the magazine that features models posing in the latest fashions. Vogue is a dance, it's attitude, and it's a way of life. It is everything you can learn when you go to a ball; style, fashion, runway, posing, modeling, technique, individuality, and being seen. It is the test of physical endurance and originality. It is serving your opponent in battle and reading with your hands. Like it or not, vogueing has been around for nearly 25 years and isn't going anywhere because vogueing changes with the times. Want to know how to vogue? Here is what you must know;

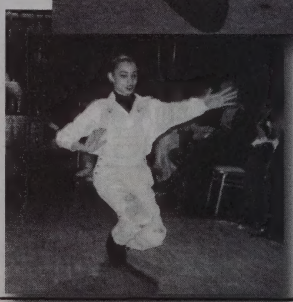
THE ORIGIN: No one actually knows who started vogueing (not Madonna), but some claim that Paris Dupree started it. Others say it started in a jail yard in the 1970's where some incarcerated 'kids' were trying to out-pose each other to pass time. Back in those old days in Harlem, vogueing was called simply "Performance". Most of the vogueing of that time was like accelerated model's poses. As time went on the styles changed.

THE STYLES: There are at least 6 different styles and all are unmistakable by their power to make you look at it. The "Old Way", which is the original way of vogueing, it's like model posing with a kind of start-stop type of motion that is accented with graceful twirls and intricate hand movements. "Pop, Dip and Spin" was the next style that formed. You were literally called upon to "pop" your body, "dip" to the ground and "spin" and twirl as well as incorporate acrobatics. This style quickly gave way to the "New Way", which requires stretching, splitting, clicks (double-jointed like movements behind the back and head) and gymnastics as opposed to the traditional model-like poses. "Face with Performance" calls for vogueing around the face and "selling" your face through hand movements and facial expressions. "Fem Queen Performance" is for the transsexuals. This style accentuates one's femininity by pointing out and exaggerating female characteristics like long hair, hips, breasts and a dainty walk. "Butch Queen Vogue Fem" is basically males imitating the fem queens without the benefit of hormones or silicone. This style started about seven years ago and is the most popular style of vogueing around. Both "Fem Queen Performance" and "BQ Vogue Fem" have gone from a soft and dainty beginning to more drama and acrobatics. All styles, however, have kept the spirit of attitude alive.



written by staff writer
Danny Galliano atlanta, ga.





WHY DO IT? Many people vogue because it is fun and challenging. It pushes one's limits physically and creatively. It helps keep in you shape and you can develop good dance technique and heightened battle instincts. Also, when you get good at it, and people notice, the attention can be good for the ego.

DOING IT PROPERLY: How do you know if you are vogueing? Vogueing is hard to describe, but originality, attitude and perfection of movement are the main keys to being able to vogue. Most people have their own style, but there are enough similarities for one to know if you are doing it correctly. Attitude plays the largest part, as you have to convince the opposition that you are better them.

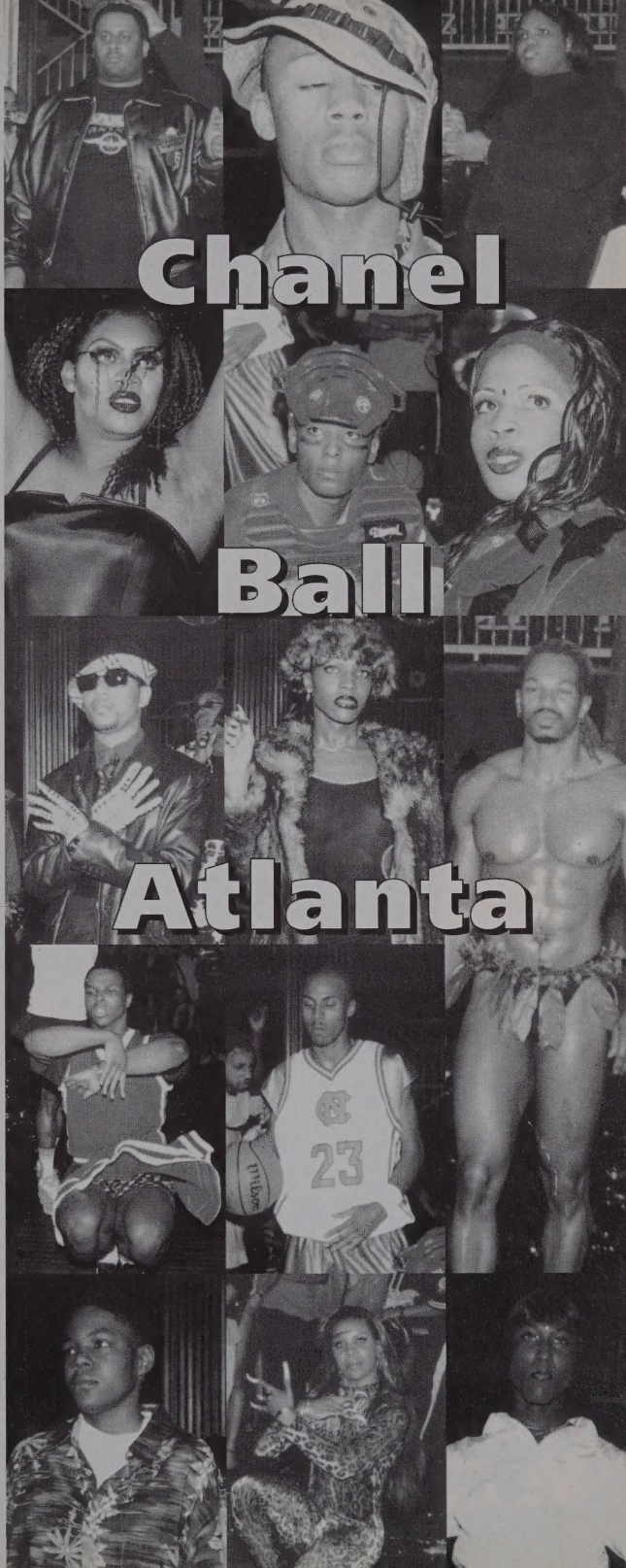
...AND THE DON'T'S: Vogueing isn't sloppy. It is a dance, so you move the beat. Don't get 'locked' in the "Old Way", which is when your opponent will try to "embrace" you (usually from behind) to prevent you from doing your moves. Don't stand in one place. Don't practice off of your favorite song (you never know what will be played at a ball). Don't

show off all your new moves at the club, as you will find your opponent doing them at the next ball.

ROLL CALL: Many people have excelled at vogueing and have either gone on to legendary status or are known in the ballscene as tough competitors. Here is a brief list of names that you need to know. Some of our legends are no longer with us, but you can still learn from them through pictures and video tape; "Old Way"- Ronald LaMay, Stevie St. Laurent, Ira Aphrodite, Muhammad Omni, GG Ebony, Danny Xtravaganza, Fuquan Essence, Eric Bazaar, Tony Mugler. "Pop, Dip and Spin"—Jerome Pendavis, Jason Overness, Lamar Ebony, Andre Mizrahi, Derrick LaBeija. "New Way"—Jose Xtravaganza, Aldawna Xtravaganza, Otis Mugler, Stanley Milan, Jose Revlon, Damian Revlon, Hicabee Milan. "Face with Performance"—Jarrett Ebony, Terrell Ebony, Brian Omni, Jamal Milan, Julian Mugler, Kaduma Ebony, Cliff Milan. "Fem Queen Performance"—Danielle Revlon, Moldavia LaBeija, Kadeidra St. Laurent, Sandy Ninja, Bianca Xtravaganza, Leah Richards, Melissa Milan, Latisha Revlon, Ashley St. Claire, Alyssa, Sinia Ebony, Revlon Ebony, Yolanda Jourdan. "BQ Vogue Fem"—Eugene Milan, Shay-Shay Mizrahi, Taifa Ebony, Albert Revlon, Armani Milan, Charles Khan, Derrick Mugler, Kevin Ebony, Kevin Bazaar and Mica Ebony.

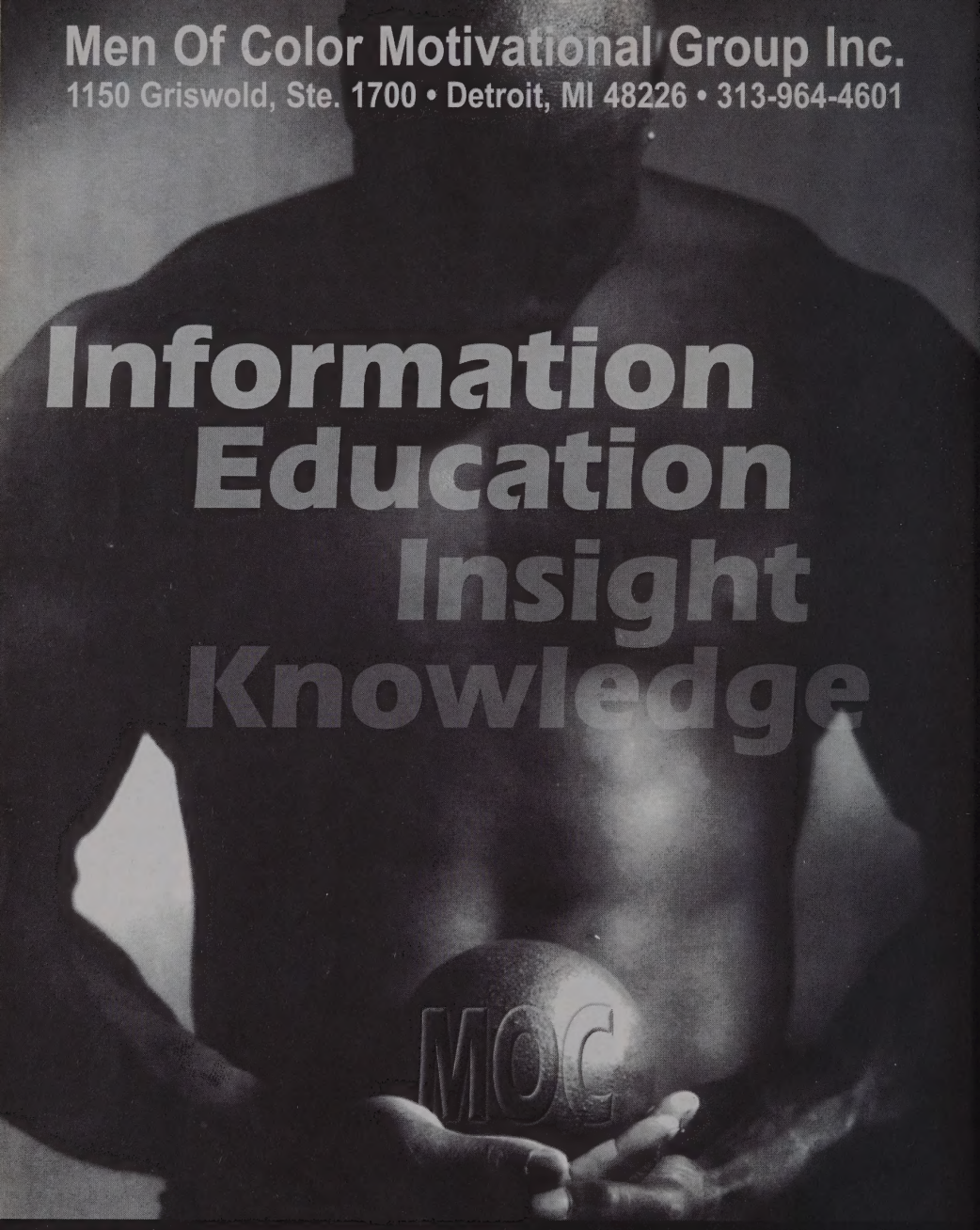
Now you know all about vougeing Remember that it is just a dance done for fun and if you see someone in a club doing, don't judge them based on the fact that they are vogueing. Think about all the hard work and creativity that goes into it.

Special thanks/shout-outs to; Better Days, Midtown 43, the Garage, Traxx (NYC), Sound Factory, Sound Factory Bar, Imperial Elks Lodge, Marc Ballroom, Red Zone, Continental Club, Lincoln Center Community Center, Clubhouse (NYC), Nile, Traxx (DC), Bunz, Paradox, Clubhouse (DC), YWCA in Brooklyn, Traxx (Atl), Loretta's, David De Pino, Andre Collins, Madonna, David Ian Xtravaganza for "Elements of Vogue", Malcolm McLaren for "Deep in Vogue", First Choice, MFSB, Diana Ross, Ralphi Rosario, "Hot For You", George Krantz, Jenny Livingston, Iman, Linda, Naomi and Christy (they ARE vogue), and contributors Tony Mugler, Reudi Galliano, and Armani Milan.



Men Of Color Motivational Group Inc.

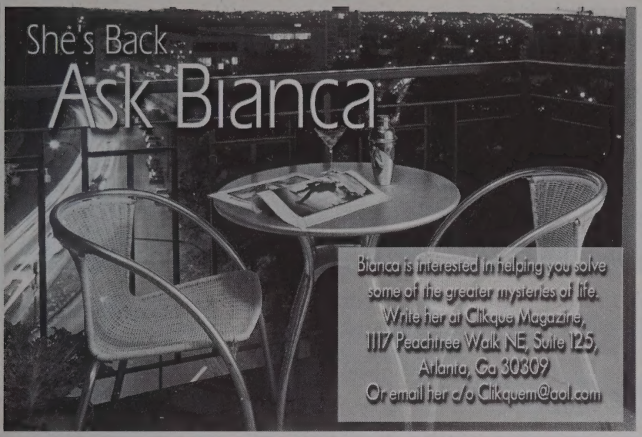
1150 Griswold, Ste. 1700 • Detroit, MI 48226 • 313-964-4601



MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.


She's Back...
Ask Bianca
Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life.
Write her at Clikque Magazine,
1117 Peachtree Walk NE, Suite 125,
Atlanta, Ga 30309
Or email her c/o Clikquem@aol.com

Hello everyone! I am here to spill the tea so get your cups ready. As it turns out during last month Clikque received an e-mail from someone who was interested in knowing if any of the staff members were single and all that they asked in particular was for them to be male. Can we say desperate? The next tired scanch that sends an e-mail asking about my pieces will have to answer to me! Now let me handle my business for this month.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,
Do you think its possible to love more than one person? I don't want you to think that I am some kinda whore because I'm not. I live in Dallas,Tx. and I met a wonderful guy whom I love so very much who lives in Atlanta, Ga. I met another guy in December whom I kicked it with for almost 2 months but I had to end it because I felt that it was very wrong and I wouldn't want it to be done to me. But I still miss him so very much and I feel as if I love him but I'm not really sure why.. I do know that I love my friend in Atlanta and I want to be with him..but at the same time there's that feeling for the guy here in TX that's dwelling within also.. My friends don't feel as if this is possible, they think that its only lust for the guy here but I don't think so... What do you think?
Confused-Dallas,Tx.

Your Highness,
I must say that I feel honored to be giving advice to the " Drama Queen" of Texas. Maam, please get yourself together first. I have no pity for tramps trying to act like victims. If you love them both, then love them enough to focus on one or the other.
Your welcome!
Miss Bianca

Dear Bianca,
I have a big problem with being single. I have been single for over a year now and believe it or not this is a record for me. I am tired of being alone! I am very attractive, financially stable, and I am a people person. I seem to keep attracting scrubs and I don't know why. Can You help me ?
Lonely in DC

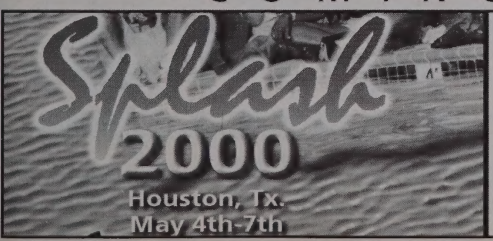
Bitch you ain't slick I know who you are! Now Rudy, what's with all this I'm attractive and a people person??? Reality check Queen! You're as a obese as deloreese and no more a people person than Johnny Rocker. You are single because everyone has had you. Unless DC gets an influx of new sissies sometime soon you will remain S.O.L. for a while. I recommend you start in a new city, just stay away from Atlanta, we have enough of your kind here, hopefully they will follow this same advice.
GET PACKIN
Bianca

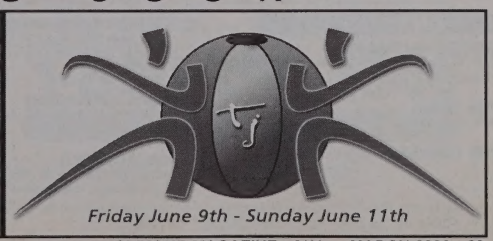
Dear Bianca,
I have found the perfect mate with enough dick to make plenty of money as a stripper, not saying that he is, but you no what I mean. He is so attentive and affectionate. The only problem is with all of that going on, he can't screw.
What should I do?
Not satisfied- Bronx , NY.

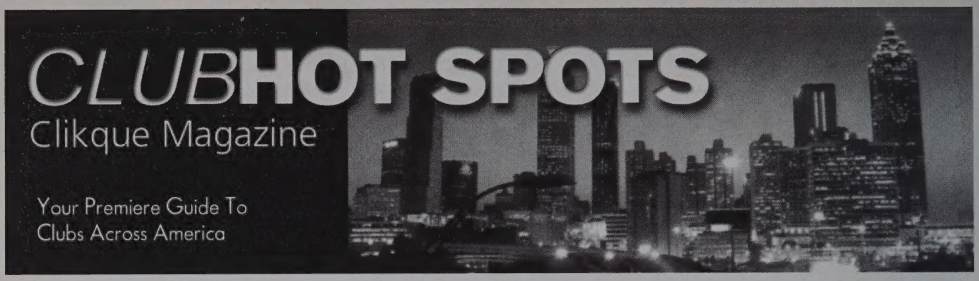
Write Bianca Today!

Girrrl,
Teach it, tame it, and ride it home! Ain't nothin like teaching a baby to give it to you how you want it, now I'm assuming this is a baby (21 & under). If he isn't, child tell her to leave you alone, don't nothing piss me off like queen dick, I don't care how big it is. So honey pull out the beginners manuel or a damn chainsaw and aim for that bitch's ankles!
Bianca

COMING SOON







Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed here.

ATLANTA, GA

BACKSTREET ATLANTA
845 Peachtree Street (Rear Entrance) 404-873-1986. Always Open & Pouring. Membership Required * Membership Available. Hip-Hop Tuesdays w/DJ Biff

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025. One of Atlanta's most happening nightspot. Open seven days a week.

CLUB FUSION
550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR
W. Peachtree & 15th St., 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THE SEQUEL
708 Spring Street, 404-874-8125. Open Sundays-Wednesdays

THELMA'S PUMP ROOM
836 Juniper, 404-881-9230. Black on Friday Nights for the Best in Female Impersonation.

TRAXX NIGHTCLUB
306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422
Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays Nights Hip-Hop Dance Floor, House & Classics.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

LATROYS
316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE, NC

300 STONEWALL
300 E. Stonewall (at S. Blvd.), 704-347-4200

CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

HOUSTON, TX

INCOGNITO- THE CLUB
2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS THE NIGHTCLUB
1318 Westheimer, 713-942-CLUB. Mostly Black Thursdays - Sundays from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS
200 N. Mills St., Downtown, 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

MEMPHIS, TN

N-COGNITO 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MONTGOMERY, AL

FAT BOY'S FOLLIES 215 North Court Street. 334-269-6050

MIAMI/FT. LAUD., FL

AT THUNDER ALLEY 3025 NE 188th Street, Miami
1-877-Grove-4. Purple Haze on Saturdays. Miami's #1 Spot with sexy male and female exotic dancers.

CLUB 21 / COLISEUM
2520 South Miami Road, Ft. Lauderdale 1-877-Grove-4 Spinning The Phatest Hip Hop, House & Reggae on Thursdays.

COPA NIGHTCLUB
2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

CASABLANCA
Hallendale Beach - Off I-95 954-454-8400. Thurday Night all Black, Male Dancers

SUGAR'S
17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday

WATERFRONT
36th Street near Airport., Miami, 305-635-5696. Blackest on Tuesdays

NASHVILLE, TN

THE CONNECTION
901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

NEW ORLEANS, LA

WOLFENDALE'S
834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

NEW YORK, NY

CLUB HOUSE
215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays.

ESCUELITA
301 West 39th St. (Corner of 8th Ave.) 212-631-0588. Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

THE WAREHOUSE
141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT
120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA, FL

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS
536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmond's African-American Club of True Diversity.

TALLAHASSEE, FL

CLUB PARK AVENUE
115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

BROTHERS
926 West Tharpe Street, 850-386-2399. Black Nights-Fridays & Saturdays.

WASHINGTON, DC

BACHELOR'S MILL
1104 8th St. S.E., 202-544-1931.Black Men Dancing Thursday thru Saturday.

CLUB DIVERSITE
1526 14th St. N.W., 202-387-2338.

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St. N.E., 202-529-0626. Women on Fridays & Men on Saturdays.

CLIKQUE CONNECTION
Personals

MEN: CALL 1-800-546-MENN FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL

Georgia

FUN THAT'S IT African-American Male, enjoys sports, movies, hanging out. Seeking Male to have fun with. #14094

BIG GUY Kevin is a 33-year-old African-American Male, honest. Seeking cool, down-to-earth, honest, masculine Male, for friendship. (Atlanta) #15633

DAVID ON THE LINE GBM, 5'11", medium build, nice lips, attractive, bottom seeking H/BM, for casual dating and sharing good times. We can kick it if we are right for each other. (Atlanta) #14958

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP POSSIBLE I am for real. GBM, 28, very attractive looking for a possible partner and long-term relationship. If you are serious and are committment-minded let's see if we are right for each other. No fats or femmes. (Atlanta) #14285

MATURE WELL-TOOLED Mature very-pretty TV pre-op TS seeking loving, versatile oral top who can help me be a real Woman. You will be pleased. (Savannah) #14299

NO STRINGS ATTACHMENT GWM, 23, seeking GM, under 25, race is open, for sexual good times. Does this sound good to you? If so drop me a message. (Atlanta) #14757

LOW FADE GBM Rick is a GBM, 23, dark skin, 5'10", 155 lbs, very masculine, very professional seeking a buddy who deisres a new friend. Our relationship would be purely platonic. I am in a committed relationship and all that is wanted is a new friend to share some fun times together. #10053

BROTHER WANTS TO CHILL SBM, 5'9", 148 lbs, 24, discreet, bottom is seeking for a friend, Brother, top who wants more than a sexual relaltionship. We can have some great times together, let's try to connect. (College Park) #14401

Illinois

35-YEAR-OLD BIWM seeking Male for sexual experiences only. #17579

WRITER 27-year-old BM, 5'8", 179 lbs., enjoys having fun, hanging out, dancing, writing, movies, music. Seeking Male with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) #17383

MICHAEL J. FOX TYPE WANTED Joe is a 46-year-old Male, brown/brown, goatee, moderately hairy, enjoys movies, music, dancing, dining out, quiet evenings. Seeking boyish Michael J. Fox type Male, 40-50, must be down-to-earth, stable, monogamous, n/s. (Chicago) #15939

NEW TO CHICAGO Carlos is a HM, 5'11", black/green. Seeking a new friend to show him around the city. (Chicago) #15664

GIMME A CALL James is a 25-year-old GBM, versatile, open, good-humored, enjoys bowling, cooking, dancing, good sex, parties. Seeking GBM for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) #15356

IS THIS YOU? 18-year-old Male, 5'11", 155 lbs., black/brown, enjoys music, intelligent conversation, having fun. Seeking Male with similar interests. (Chicago) #15217

SINCERE, DOWN-TO-EARTH, HONEST GBM, 38, enjoys bowling, walking, music, movies seeking similar Male who has similar likes. Let's try to connect and see where it goes. (Chicago) #14646

LIKES ORDER IN LIFE John is a GWM, casual, laidback, cool Guy, not into the bar scene. ISO counterpart who would like to find out more about me, please give me a call. (Chicago) #13286

Michigan

ROMANCE African-American Male, 6'3", healthy HIV+, employed, enjoys reading, music, people, movies. Seeking B/WM, light smoker, social drinker, to show him the romantic side of life. (Detroit) #17639

WESTERN SUBURBS CHICAGO Big bear Larry, 6'3", 260 lbs, very hairy, seeking other bears or cubs for cuddling. If you fit this bill give me a call and see where it goes. #10684

WHAT'S UP FELLAS Attractive GBM, 18, 6'1", 220 lbs, 44" chest, intelligent, mature, employed ISO GBM, 25-45, who enjoys the finer things in life. If this sounds like you give me a call, you will be pleased. (Detroit) #14498

New York

LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER GWM, 42, very handsome, muscular ISO counterpart who is interested in a new friend. Many possibilities exist for a great friendship. (NYC) #14845

HOT TIME IN BIG APPLE GWM, 6'2", 185 lbs, black/brown, 8" enjoys all sports, seeking GM, age and race open, for threesome, foursome or whatsome. Give me a call. (New York City) _14810

Tennessee

NEW TO MEMPHIS Chad is 6'1", 180 lbs., blonde/blue. Seeking Male for fun times. (Memphis) #17485

HOT BOY Ex-model GBM, 5'11", brown skin, seeking brother that good times can be shared with. I am nice to be around and you will have a good time. Give me a holler. (Memphis) #14729

MATURE, STOCKY, SOLID GBM, 5'9", 285 lbs, dark skin, open-minded, very loving seeking counterpart that is willing to try a new experience that could develop into a solid relationship. All serious inquiries will be answered. Willing to relocate. #15818

Texas

KEEP IT ON THE DL Dallas is a 26-year-old BM, 6'0", 195 lbs., medium build, medium complexion, low hair-cut, mustache, very attractive, bottom, enjoys movies, bowling, quiet times. Seeking gentle, masculine, discreet, aggressive top Male, with similar interests. (Dallas) #15022

VERY ATTRACTIVE BOTTOM Are you a hot Boy? GBM, 21, intelligent, very attractive, 5'8", 140 lbs, seeking hot, horny BM, bottom. Let's do it. (Dallas) #14929

WILLIAM, 24, MEDIUM build, blonde is seeking a friend to have some new experiences with. If you are dependable, fun-loving, honest and enjoy good times then I am the Man for you. (Texas) #14787

STRICTLY A TOP John, 5'8", 170 lbs, light brown skin, 35, SBM, top, very outgoing, fun to be around enjoys going out, movies, clubs ISO counterpart who knows how to take care of his Man. If this sound good to you, give me a holler. (Dallas) #14417

Virginia

CONSIDERED ATTRACTIVE 28-yeaar-old GWM, 6'0", 170 lbs., black/hazel, 32" waist, very attractive. Seeking straight-acting/appearing Male. #17546

FIRST TIME Attractive WM, 6'0", 190 lbs, curious. Seeking an aggressive, good-looking, slim, uncut Male, for first time experience. (Chesterfield) #15741

WOMEN: CALL 1-800-546-MEET FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL

Florida

BI-CURIOUS, MARRIED FEMALE Bi-curious, Married Female seeking an intelligent, educated, open-minded, soft, pretty, discreet, sexy, disease/drug-free, bi-curious Female, for safe fun. (Miami) #16906

Georgia

VERY, VERY ROMANTIC 32-year-old WF, 5'7", 140 lbs., brown/hazel, very romantic, enjoys the outdoors, long walks, movies, dancing, sports, music, cooking, candle light dinners, wine, fireplaces. Seeking Female with similar interests, for possible relationship. (Homerville) #17537

WHERE ARE YOU? 22-year-old Female, 5'2", 125 lbs. Seeking Female 25-32, medium to thick build, no children. _15416

Michigan

TOMBOYISH FEMALE Very attractive, 29-year-old GBF, 5'7", 130 lbs., light complexion, n/s, n/drinker, enjoys bowling, playing pool, shopping, theater, dining out. Seeking feminine, SF 24-32, , no taller than 5'5", no heavier than 165 lbs., no more than one child, very independent, n/s, for friendship, possible relationship. (Detroit) #17609

VARIETY OF COLORS 32-year-old African-American PF. Seeking an erotic, n/s, n/drinker, passionate, passive, Female who is a good lover, with a variety of colors, for erotic fun and passion. #15349

THICK AND WANTS FRIEND BF, 21, 5'2", 150 lbs, seeking friend who wants a new Gal pal in her life. Let's see if we can make it work. (Detroit) #17005

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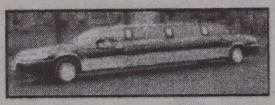
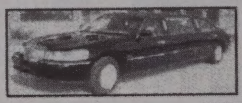
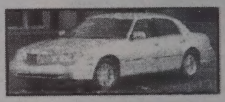

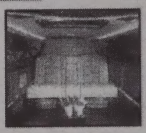

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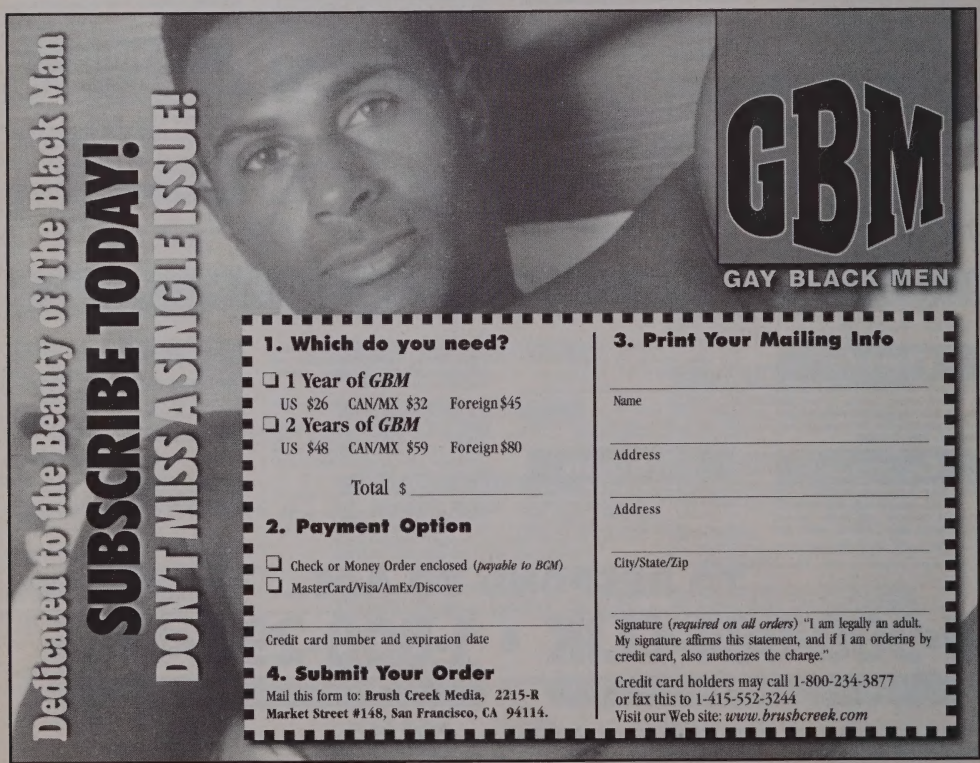

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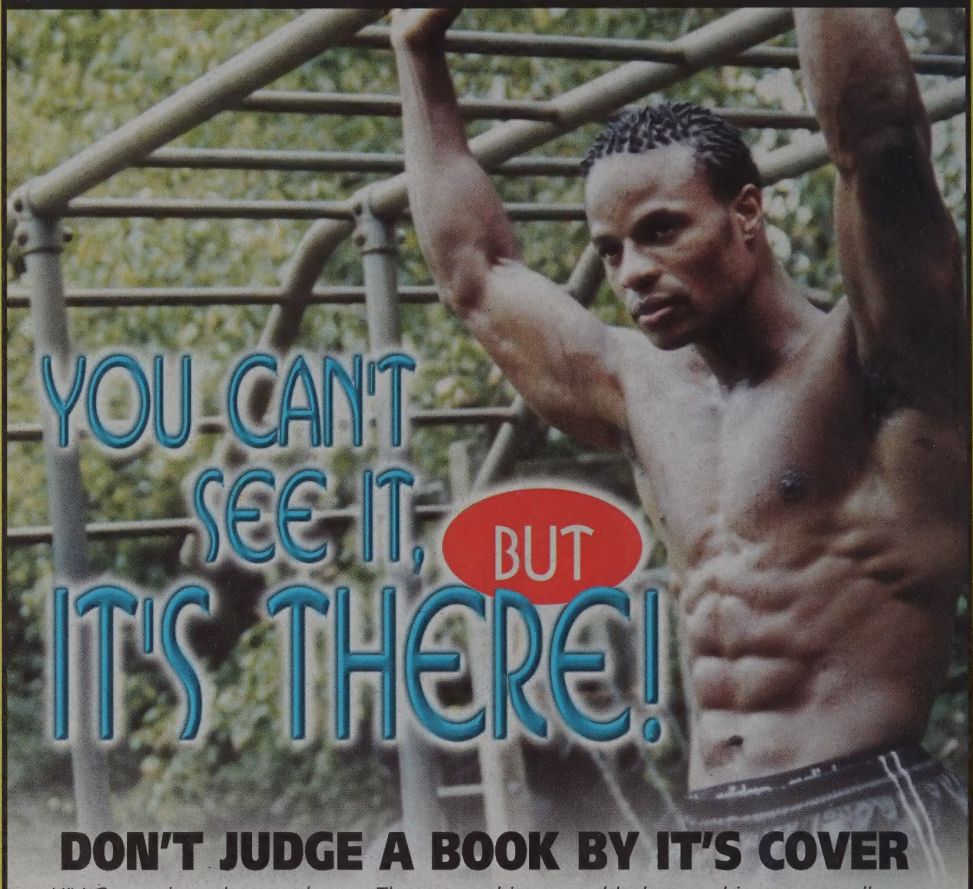

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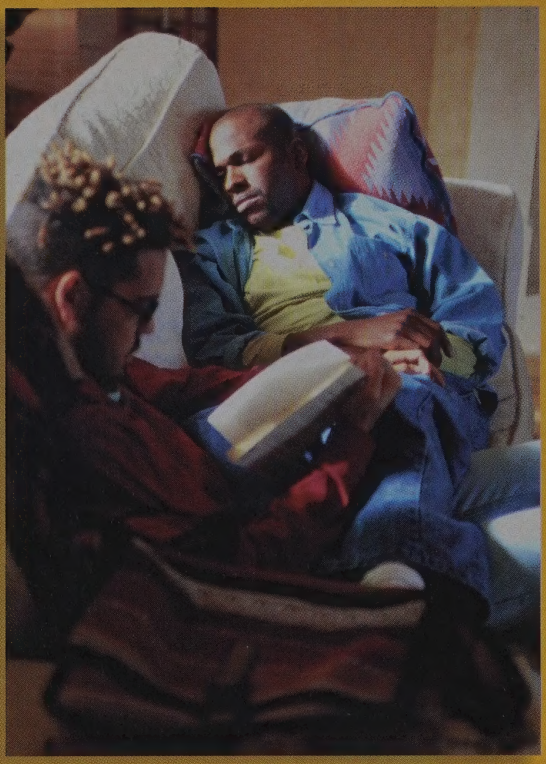

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hiv/aids updates

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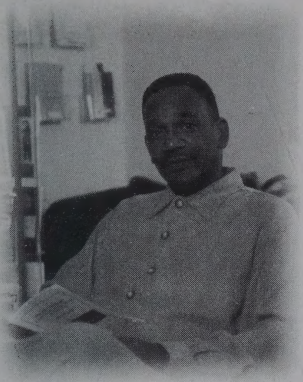

Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: Jackson, Mississippi, January 21, 2000, reporting from the Southeastern front on behalf of our brothers in combat on the Southwestern front (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana). I am deeply honored to be writing to you from the H. T. Sampson Library on the campus of Jackson State University. Renaissance III, Inc., is now a subcontractor of Jackson State University's SAM/CBA project. SAM/CBA (Southern African American Men/Community Capacity Building Assistance) is a component of the Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC). The SAM/CBA project and MURC are under the able direction and guidance of Dr. Mark Colomb. Mark has been a long time warrior in African American men-who-have-sex-with-other-men (MSM)/Eu-men) battle against HIV/AIDS. Our communities, across the South, can expect professional, sensitive, and timely assistance from the SAM/CBA program. Renaissance III, Inc., has been designated to operate the Southwestern Regional Field office for the JSU – SAM/CBA project. That office is now open.

On January 14, 2000 the Centers for Disease Control released a report that detailed and brought attention to a tragedy that many of us have been aware of for quite some time. It is a 24-page document and for those of you who desire the detailed information I invite you to visit the CDC web site at www.cdc.gov or call us at (214) 428-6227 for a copy. The report stated that in 1998 52% of the MSM diagnosed with AIDS are African American or Latino. The report went on to state that 60% of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections per year are among MSM. It estimated that there are about 475,000 MSM living with HIV at the present time. One of the interesting points that the report brought out was the number of infections among minority MSM between the ages of 13 – 24. It indicated 16% of African American Eu-men (MSM) diagnosed with HIV was in the aforementioned age group. A recent study by the Young Men's Survey also delivered some dire information: a 14% HIV infection rate among African American MSM in the 15 – 22 year old age group. The survey also reported that 41% of the young MSM in the study had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse in the past six months. I will not drown you in the statistical data of the report. Again, I will state that those of us on the front lines of this epidemic in our communities have been very aware of this situation for an extended period of time. I am relieved that the CDC has finally caught up to the communities' realities.

Dr. Helene Gayle, the director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB prevention had some interesting comments on the situation, which I would be remiss in my responsibilities as a protector and defender of African American Eu-men not to comment on and take issue with. She stated: "... how AIDS tends to affect those most out of reach of social safety nets, beyond the network of voices openly talking about HIV". Black Eu-men (MSM) have been talking, shouting and screaming about this epidemic for years. For the most part they have fell on deaf ears at the CDC and the resources (money) was channeled into the white gay community while our communities were left to suffer and die. How did the white gay man get the word out and keep their "social safety nets" from being tattered, frayed and destroyed?" – funding of a public and private nature. Of course the blame does not rest solely with the CDC and other government funders. The Black MSM community must shoulder its fair share of the blame. But a lot more could have been done were we given access to our tax dollars like the white gay community was. Dr. Gayle further stated: "... many believe that fear of stigmatization is what causes some MSM not to think of themselves – nor identify themselves – as gay or bisexual. By not identifying as gay or bisexual, these men may not perceive themselves at risk for HIV..." Apparently, the doctor believes that if "trade" who is getting their "freak" on would only admit that they are "gay, homosexual, or bisexual" somehow a light would go off in their head and they would conclude that they could get HIV by having unprotected sex with another man. This concept borders on the juvenile and is woefully disconnected from reality.

Renaissance III, Inc., is currently

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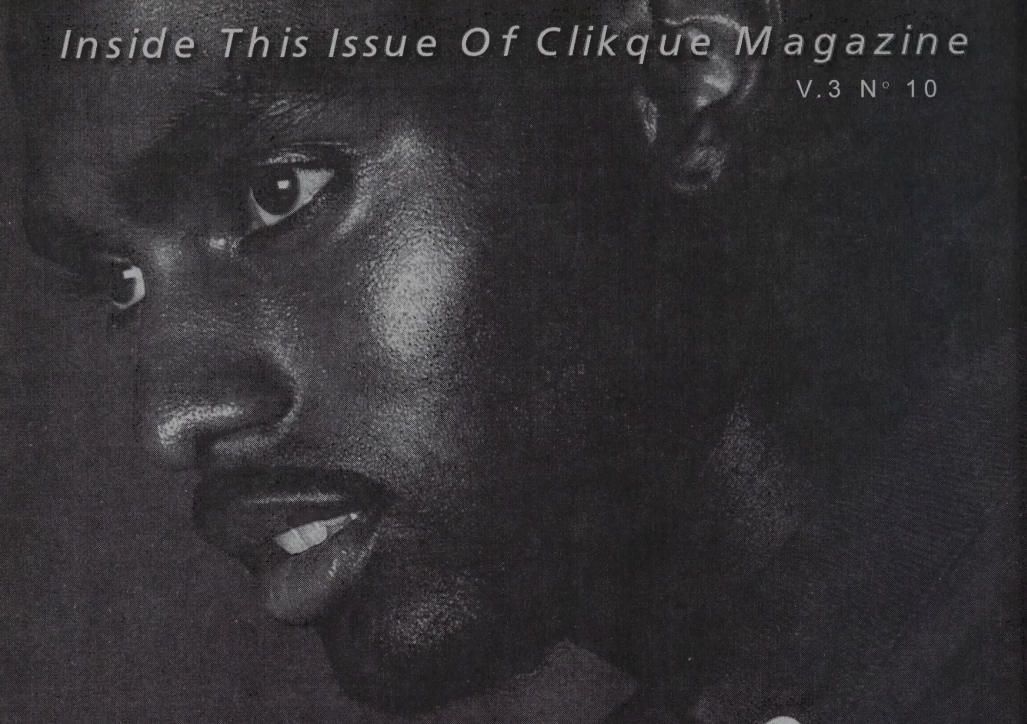

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Bryce Wilson
as "Robert" appearing in the romantic thriller Trois.

Bryce is the R&B sex symbol from the Gold selling group Groove Theory. He is also known for his work with songstress Toni Braxton.

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Clikque MAGAZINE

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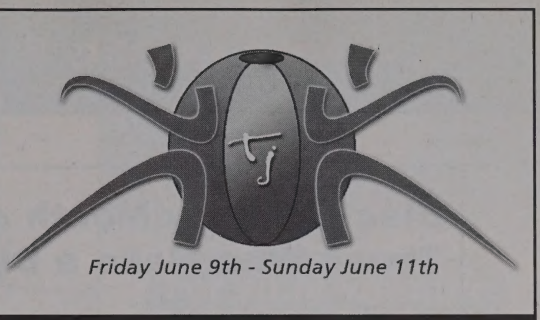

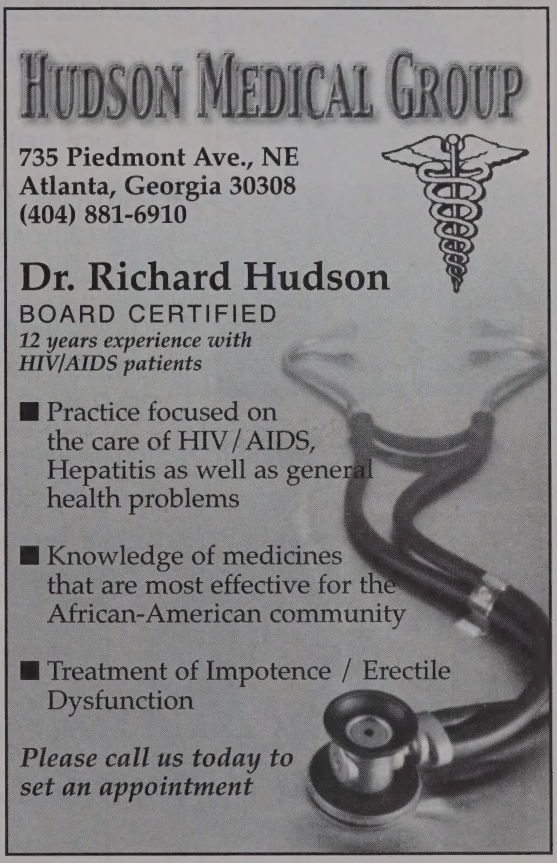
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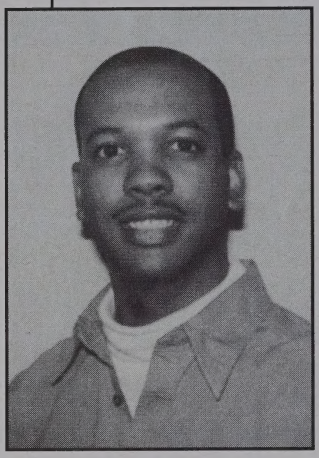
salutes

Black History Month and Those Who Make a Difference



Leo Monroe of Savannah, Georgia gives leadership by

- volunteering with the First City Network, Savannah's leading gay social network.
- leading efforts of the Georgia Equality Project, Coastal Georgia chapter.
- interviewing and ranking candidates in southeast Georgia for the GEP-PAC endorsement.
- playing an integral role in politics, such as the election of Savannah City Alderman Edna Branch Jackson, a candidate who promises to work for a non-discrimination ordinance for the city.

Thank You Leo. Your volunteer spirit makes a difference for everyone.

GEORGIA EQUALITY PROJECT

You can make a difference too. Contact the Georgia Equality Project to get involved. Call Joe, Jeff, Christy or Harry at 404.872.3600 or visit us at www.gep.org.

Publisher's Message of the Month

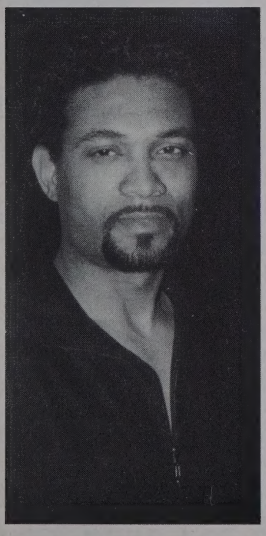
The Following Is Chapter 54 of:
Don't Sweat The Small Stuff
by Richard Carlson, PH.D.

Understand the Statement, "Wherever You GO, There You Are"

This is the title of a super book by Jon Kabat-Zinn. As the title suggests, wherever you go, you take yourself with you! The significance of this statement is that it can teach you to stop constantly wishing you were somewhere else. We tend to believe that if we were somewhere else—on vacation, with another partner, in a different career, a different home, a different circumstance—somehow we would be happier and more content. We wouldn't.

The truth is, if you have destructive mental habits—if you get annoyed and bothered easily, if you feel angry and frustrated a great deal of the time, or if you're constantly wishing things were different, these identical tendencies will follow you, wherever you go. And the reverse is also true. If you are a generally happy person who rarely gets annoyed and bothered, then you can move from place to place, from person to person, with very little negative impact.

Someone once asked me, "What are the people like in California?" I asked him, "What are the people like in your home state?" He replied, "Selfish and greedy." I told him that he would probably find the people in California to be selfish and greedy.



Something wonderful begins to happen with the simple realization that life, like an automobile, is driven from the inside out, not the other way around. As you focus more on becoming more peaceful with where you are, rather than focusing on where you would rather be, you begin to find peace right now, in the present. Then, as you move around, try new things, and meet new people, you carry that sense of inner peace with you. It's absolutely true that "Wherever you go, there you are."

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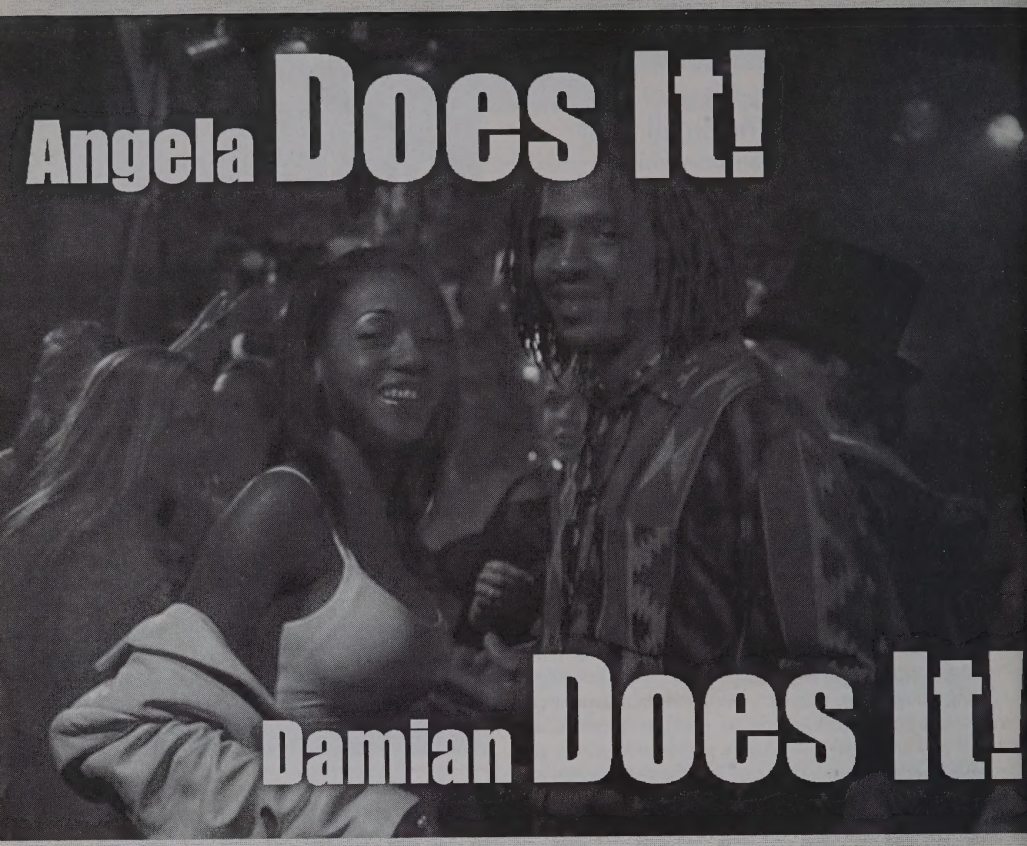

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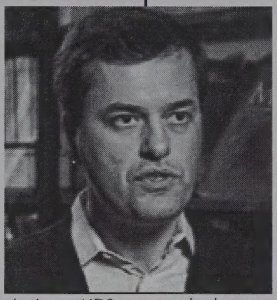
AIDS VIRUS STAYS IN CHECK DURING RESEARCH SHOWS

Washington (CNN) -- A man identified only as the "Washington patient" is the subject of a promising new report on AIDS treatment. It suggests that a "drug holiday" from the costly and often toxic AIDS cocktails can allow patients to live without medication for a few months at a time.

Dr. Franco Lori led the preliminary research into a drug holiday at the Research Institute for Genetic and Human Therapy in Washington. Lori's team attempted to reproduce the results seen in the so-called "Berlin patient," a German man who has been off his AIDS drugs for three years and has somehow kept the virus in check.



Lori says AIDS may one day be controlled much like the herpes virus

Lori's results with the Washington patient are published as a research letter in Friday's issue of the Lancet, the leading British medical journal.

The Washington scientists have studied their remarkable patient for more than two years, taking him off the powerful AIDS medications periodically. The idea is to suppress HIV in the body with the drug cocktail, then stop the drugs and allow the virus to rebound so the immune system sees it. Researchers repeat this cycle again and again until the immune system learns the virus is an enemy.

"If the immune system can be activated that way then the immune system will be able to control, eventually, HIV as we do daily with other viruses like herpes," Lori told CNN.

So far the Washington patient has had several drug holidays -- one lasting three and a half months.

"It was good not to have to schedule my life around when I was going to have to take my drugs," he said.

Many HIV patients take as many as 20 drugs a day, which cost up to $10,000 a year and can produce sickening side-effects.

Last year Lori and his colleagues published similar results from another anonymous patient. But the doctors warn patients not to try treatment holidays on their own.

"When you stop drugs what will happen is the virus reactivates itself and it replicates and then you get a rebound in your viral load," said internist Dr. Bruce Rashbaum.

The next research step is to confirm drug holidays will work for patients who have been infected for several years and have been on many different drugs.

As for the Washington patient, he says in 10 years he wants to be the forgotten patient ... forgotten because he beat the disease.

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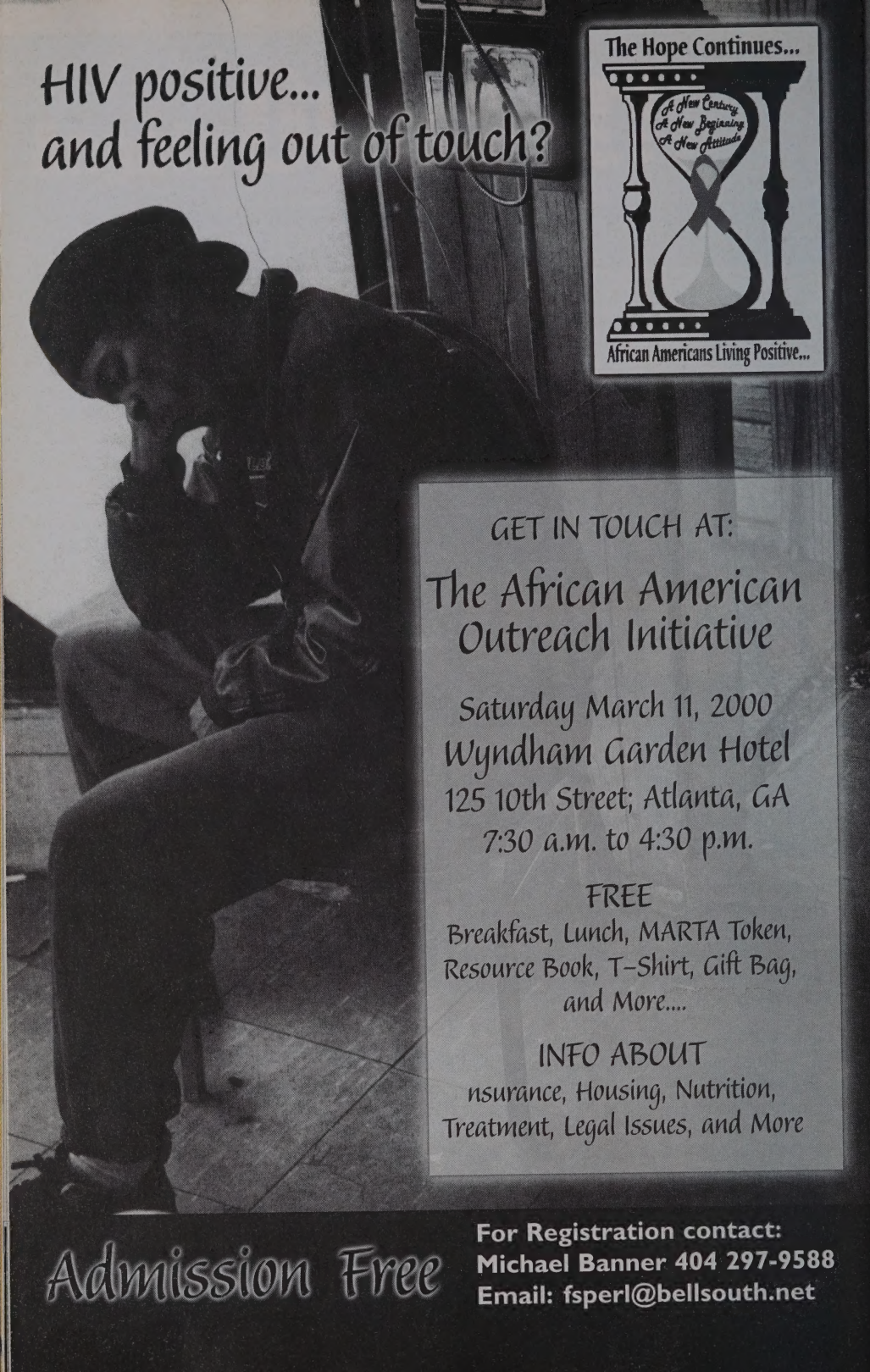
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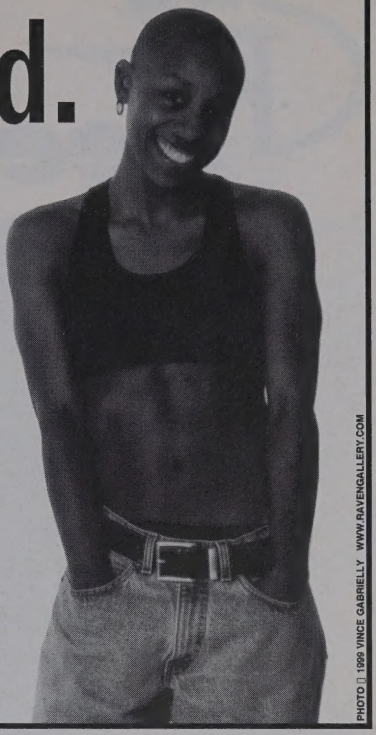

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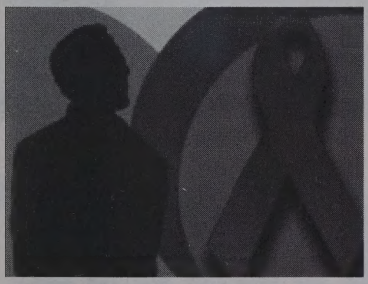
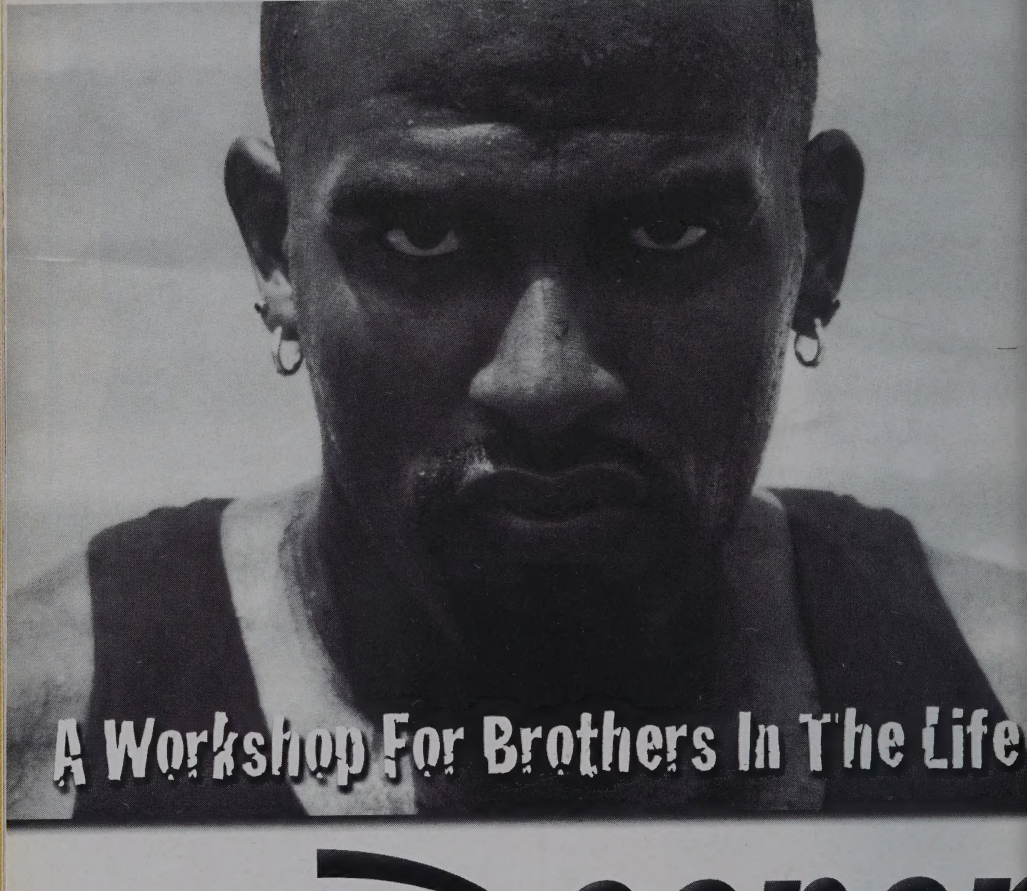
Don Sneed Continued From Page 9

conducting a series of Safer-sex workshops and we have been conducting a survey to determine whether or not young Black MSM know about HIV/AIDS, how it is contracted and how to prevent being infected. 100% of the people in attendance have been able to tell us what HIV is, how you catch it and how to prevent one's self from becoming infected. Here, at the dawn of the 21st century, it is insulting to the intelligence to allude that Black MSM and our sex partners are borderline ignoramuses and don't know the basic fundamentals about HIV. Additionally, for those of you who have "trade" and guys who don't identify as "gay, homosexual, or bisexual" I am sure you can attest to the fact that those individuals are more likely to insist on using a condom then are queens/gays. Besides, the good doctor contradicts the CDC's own reports that outlined the horrific infection rates among those who do identify as "gay, homosexual, or bisexual." From my personal experience I can testify that "trade" is more likely to insist on condom usage then a "gay" boy.



While doing outreach, one night at a local park, in the heart of deepest, darkest, black Dallas, where the guys go to get their "freak" on, my outreach workers and myself talked with a 19 year Black Eu-man. He told us about a 21-year old friend of his with AIDS. I asked him did not he and his friend know about HIV and how one contracts it. He responded yes they were fully aware of the dangers. I went on to ask him why did the guy not protect himself. The young man thought for a long while about this question. Finally, he said, "I guess he just didn't care." That Dr. Gayle is the problem. People have been educated about HIV/AIDS. They don't care whether or not they get infected. There is an extreme internal dysfunction-taking place within the mind, psyche and emotional matrix of African American MSM that creates apathy about getting infected with the AIDS virus. New programming must address the root causes of this apathy. You can fund outreach programs to educate and distribute condoms until you are blue in the face. It will not make a dimes worth of difference. We must focus on the internal causes for the massive collective apathy that African American MSM are exhibiting and then we can engender the appropriate behavior changes that will stop the spread of HIV.

we go deep



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13th Annual Conference Plans Announced Black Lesbian And Gay Leaders To Meet February 17-20, 2000

The 13th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference is set to convene in Chicago, Illinois from February 17-20. "Healing & Rebuilding for the New Millennium" is the theme of this year's Conference.

"This is an extraordinary time of change, challenge and opportunity for black lesbians and gays -- changes in the health landscape, in politics and in economics require that we take a step back and plan for our collective future" said Alvan Quamina, Executive Director. "This conference provides a critical opportunity for doing that important organizational and community work."

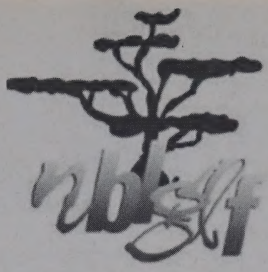
Regina Belle Giving A Stellar Performance At Last Years NBLGLF Conference

The Conference will be used as an opportunity for strategic planning for the new millennium. Participants will be allowed to look at past transgressions of the Leadership Forum, and the direction the community would like to move toward. The uniquely effective facilitation "technology" of the International Black Summit will undergird the work of that weekend.

The Conference Structure includes "Identifying the Challenges", "Creating a Community Agenda", "Visioning a New Leadership Forum" and "Alignment on Moving Forward" .

Other highlights include performances by Chicago's African American LesBiGayTrans Performance Ensemble, a Talent Show showcasing local and national performers, and an Awards Reception to recognize individuals and organizations for their work in the black LGBT community. The weekend will close with a luncheon on Sunday, February 20, 2000. All delegates will receive complimentary passes to The Rails, the hottest Black Gay Club in Chicago.

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum is the only national organization dedicated to empowering the nation's 2.5 million black lesbian and gays. Founded in 1988, the Forum has thousands of members nationwide.



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bond that suggests that the way African American women do business and form relationships may yet be the new model for corporate collaboration and effective service providing in a multifaceted, multi-programmatic, multi-disciplined, and multi- pronged approach. Clikque readers meet Da'zon Dixon Diallo, founder and Executive Director of SisterLove, Inc.; Darlene Hudson, founder and consultant to Brotha's and Sista's, Inc., (Little Rock, Arkansas); and Zina Age, founder and Executive Director of Aniz, Inc. were the subjects of this interview.

From the start I knew this would not be an ordinary interview where I would ask the questions and get answers from each of the women, instead what occurred was an intriguing and informative commentary on the unique experiences of women creating what they want and need in response to a community crying out for respect and inclusion.

Before any specific questions could be asked Darlene and Da'zon (Zina would join us later) began talking about the particular struggles that birthed their organizations and spawned their passion for the work. Darlene talked about the humble beginnings of Brotha's and Sista's, stating that it all began in her "kitchen with a group of women fryin' fish. We had no where else to go... so we used to get together and hang out, we could cook so we would sit around the table and talk. I remember it well,... one woman spoke up and stated that we could all sit around and wait until someone decided that the AIDS epidemic was an issue for women but I know that it is and we need to do something , now. She then began to recount her saga with STDs pointing to the connection to HIV transmission and the risks for women, and especially lesbian women."

Clikque wanted to look at the hard work and sacrifices that many of our African - American AIDS Service Organization (ASO's) founders/leaders have given for the good of our community and to develop services and support systems for our brothers, sisters, and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Clikque caught up with some of the executive directors who have developed a dynamic relationship with Clikque and their communities to talk about their personal experiences in heading up the nation's leading African American ASO's. It was not possible to capture every leader in this article so we will revisit this again soon. Enjoy and remember the only way we can make a difference is to be involved. We've got to be in it to win it. Lend a helping had through your donations, activism, volunteerism, and financial support. In the end we all benefit from what you do.

Clikque asked our interviewee's to tell us why they got involved, how their organizations got started, what particular struggles or obstacles they faced, if there were times when they wanted to give up and why they did not, their most joyous event or memory, and what keeps them going.

We spoke with three women who have formed a unique

According to Darlene, word soon spread around town that the women had created a "safe space" to gather, share joys and sorrows, and get and give support to each other "and the brotha's were jealous...they said 'we eat too,' and they wanted to be included. Darlene says " I met with a group of brotha's in my living room on a couple of occasions because I did not want the group to become a replica of the few club outings and parties we had." The brotha's understood her apprehension. "There was a club that we all would go to in Little Rock and every weekend there would be a fight, we really did not want to go to the club, but we all went to support the sista who ran it. But we were getting tired of breaking up fights, getting hit over the head with bottles, and that stuff." Ultimately the brothers joined the sisters and the group began. Darlene, who is no longer heading up the organization but continues to be a consultant and avid supporter of the group, vehemently states- with no hesitation- "we started because the community demanded it. It was because of the voices of a few concerned people and the outcry from

the community that we began."

Da'zon Dixon Diallo states that she agrees with the work beginning out of a necessity brought to light by the community and forces of the universe. Da'zon recounts that she began her "journey" while a student at Spelman. As an intern, with the Feminist's Women's Health Center and then an employee, she began to see the particular struggles of women in getting access, appropriate, and sensitive care from providers and governmental sources. While things were going along smoothly- the center found itself under attack during one of the presidential campaigns which focused on abortion issues. The center was targeted because it offered abortions to women and consequentially the staff knew it would no longer be able to support any direct HIV/AIDS work for women because funding would not come to the agency as long as it offered abortions. So Da'zon found herself with a program that was cut because it could no longer be a viable priority. So, along with a team of African-American women advisors, Da'zon and her merry band of women left- seeking not to rob from the rich and give to the poor, but to insure that the poor - and in fact all women, especially African-American women and their families were being represented and served in the hierarchical structure of AIDS funding and support.

Did You Know That:

57% *Of the 48,269 HIV diagnoses last year were African Americans*

62% *Of all women reported with AIDS were African American*

1 in 50 *African American men are infected with HIV.*

37% *Of all cases ever reported in this United States were those of African American which represents Only 12% of the total U.S Population*

Da'zon found a home at AID Atlanta. "We were incubated at AID Atlanta. We would not have been able to survive without the support we got from that agency and then Executive Director, Ken South, whose support was immeasurable and invaluable. We got meeting and office space, phones, postage, and all the things that you need to start up but can hardly get the funding for." Da'zon goes on to say,"we worked hard," but notes they had to fight the 'establishment,' "led by a group of gay white men who refused to give up any power or money... In addition to fighting the typical racism, sexism, genderism, and ageism (because I was very young at the time) we also faced growing apathy and complacency within the African American community." Da'zon passionately points out that she was not able to get support from traditional African-American institutions because of the fear and stigma of HIV/AIDS, and our own communities negligence in addressing serious health and sociological (and political) problems.

Da'zon informs Clikque, that SisterLove was "the first agency in the country founded by and designed to serve women infected or affected by HIV/AIDS." Not in New York or California, but in Atlanta, Georgia, came the beginnings of the movement to empower women and their families, particularly African-American women, in the arena of HIV/AIDS helping to lift themselves from the doldrums of sickness, grief and hopelessness. Today the number of agencies doing the same is still small, so much so that SisterLove, combined with sisters organizations in Savannah and Columbus,GA and Aniz, Inc, offer the most services to women in any area of the country and represent the most concentrated effort to impact the AIDS epidemic headed by women for women anywhere.

Zina Age, founder and Executive Director of Aniz, Inc. (Aniz means Powerful Seed, in spanish) grew out of a growing concern sparked by the lack of mental health services offered to person infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Zina, working on her MSW, discovered that many of the behaviors exhibited by her youngest clients stemmed from lack of expression of the fear and grief they were experiencing in dealing with the "unspoken" HIV/AIDS in the family. "I describe it as a big pink elephant in the middle of the living room, everyone can see it and knows it is there but no one will speak about it so it continues to get bigger. Aniz assists the family in letting the air out of the elephant before it destroys the family and community." Behavior changes when the mind is given the freedom to express itself in productive ways

Zina, states that her organization began because she believed that people needed a healthy way to address the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS, that society and the community had found no proper outlet for. Her struggle, like Da'zon's, is finding the funding and support to offer services amid service providers who want to retain power and influence. Aniz is currently attempting to collaborate with existing organizations, like Positive Impact, which offer mental health services but are still not fully involved within the African American community. She hopes her organization can be a bridge to bring those that have and those that need together. She believes that through the children the powerful seed of healthy living and expression will be strong enough so that the epidemic will be prevented in future generations; because the children will be equipped with the tools of prevention and compassion to make a difference.

Zina gets the energy to continue from seeing "the relief on the faces of the children and the parents when the "big secret is let out. Usually the mother is very apprehensive but once she tells the child, in most cases, the child says s/he already knew. Then there is just the biggest look of relief and freedom that overcomes them. It is a very powerful moment. This is why I do this and why I must continue."

Darlene, Da'zon, and Zina all agree that their organizations exist because the people demand that they exist. Darlene states that as her organization goes through it's transitions she resists the urge to run back and make things happen..."I must believe that the community will create its own leadership.

Labor Of Love Continues On The Next Page

Don Sneed
Dallas, Texas

Continued From Page 15

Someone will emerge who will lead the group to the next level." Da'zon agrees, she states that she was "clear that at some point I would have to go and let the organization live on its own...it's important to know when, even as the founder, to let it live it's own life...it will survive." Darlene states that "it's hard to let your baby go... and I can see why some people have a hard time letting go..." Da'zon agrees but interjects "but it is necessary."

Darlene, Da'zon, and Zina agree that the work they do is personally empowering. What we see in their team are women who are lesbian, heterosexual, African American, infected or affected, with families or not, and from all works of life have come together to form a powerful, particular, and peculiar atmosphere where healing can begin and life can be lived to the fullest.

Clikque readers meet Don Sneed of Renaissance III, in Dallas, Texas.

Don states that he got involved "to stay alive. It's that simple, I thought that if I got involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS that it would be life sustaining and life enhancing for me." Don goes on to say, "I wanted to do something constructive with my life helping other people." Don is not ashamed to state that prior to this work he had a long history as a drug addict and alcoholic."

Renaissance III started in April 1993 as an HIV support group for African-American men. Don admits that "the support group was great, but we thought that there was so much more that needed to be done from an organizational stand point. What I mean is that in the Dallas area we noticed there were a lot of white organizations providing services and that all of the AIDS service agencies for black people were run by black women- so we thought that as Black gay men, being the most impacted by the disease, we needed to do more and we could do more- so we formed an agency to help ourselves," says Don.

"The organization ran for the first nine months out of my dining room. It took about a year before we were able to get enough money to have paid staff." Don states with glee in his voice that "in Dallas, we had the full support of the gay community. We went to those supportive club owners and black professionals and put them on the board. Then the members of the support group pooled their dollars, got incorporated and tax exempt status, and then we collaborated with other ASO's, white and black, and started doing outreach with an all volunteer group."

Don says he never wanted to give up, because he expected to be successful if we persevered. "If we kept our eyes on the prize, as the saying goes," he remarks proudly. "The more we kept doing what we were doing the more people wanted to do things to help us. Several fundraisers done by the Metro (local club) and Dr. Cordell Adams' "Christmas in July" fundraiser raised over $15,000 cash from the community," Don further explains.

Renaissance III received its first small grant of $8,000 in September of 1996, from Dallas county. "What I believe really made the difference in getting that grant was that we had a group of 10 gay men who went to the board supporting the application saying we need this to help our community. This had never been done before," according to Don. That award plus the other monies allowed Renaissance III to move forward, open a small office, and begin paying rent for a year. Don fondly remembers that as an exciting time. "Things were starting to come together, at least we had a place to work from. We also had an all volunteer staff, so all the money was used to provide services. Things were really simple. Those were the good ole days," he recalls.

As in most cases there were some disappointments. Don explains, "we tried to apply for a prevention grant and we couldn't get it done. We asked J. Carl DeVine, out of Florida, to come help us, but we were so new we couldn't pull it off. It was a great learning experience, because we learned how not to do it [write a grant] and what the challenges are in getting one done."

Today even though things are changing and the struggles are different. Don has never given up because the fight is not

over. "Although black gay men have come to the table late, the good thing is that we are at the table. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done, and now that there are many people at the table willing to get the work done, only great things can begin to happen."

Don gives homage to some of the initial leaders of the fight by saying "I think that the Raymond Dumas', Carl DeVines', Ron Simmons' and George Bellengers' of the world have a lot more reinforcements now and we are seeing a lot more attention and efforts being paid to this effort in the Black gay community.

Clikque readers meet J. Carl DeVine of People of Color AIDS Coalition, Inc. St. Petersburg, Florida.

Carl states that he got involved for personal reasons, "all of my friends and my brother were infected with the disease. I did not get involved willingly, I was coerced by the Universe to do it. Whenever I refused the Universe revealed to me that I should get involved. But I ran from it. I had a very good job. I was living well... I was doing well, and I did not want to be associated with AIDS and HIV. But people had come to me several times to do things, get involved and help them, and I refused."

The turning point in Carl's life was began while he was a substance abuse counselor. Many of the residents were HIV+ and had no support group. So in 1988 he started an HIV support group for positive substance abusers. When the community found out other people started coming. That particular group asked him to help start an organization. "I said NO!!" remarks Carl.

At the time Carl notes he was a director of a cultural center and part-time substance abuse counselor. "I thought why should I give that up to deal with a disease that nobody wanted to deal with," says Carl. Then within two years Carl had lost his good job, house, car... everything that he owned. "In one of my meditations it was revealed to me, 'now that I have your attention, this is what I want you to do... start an organization for Black people who have AIDS and HIV.' I could not continue to run or refuse." Carl Remembers

Around that time, the Rainbow House, a Black substance abuse agency closed its doors. They were supposed to be offering services to the Black community. During that period, none of the agencies were Black. Carl then suggested that people of color should take over that entire operation and if they wanted him to be involved that they should pay his salary. He laughs, "they said I must be insane."

"So I went to the city and negotiated a contract to allow us to use the building for $1.00 p/year. Now we had a building and no money and nothing to attract the clients. A woman I knew at the Health Department told me where I could get dented cans of food to pass out to the clients. Then, I got a Church to let me do a support group once a week, a white church..... (long pause) not a black church," Carl adds with obvious memory of the pain of this realization. "No black churches wanted to get involved in that [HIV/AIDS]."

Carl followed-up with "I went to people for help. I asked several white organizations the procedure I needed to do to get started, they refused to help. Luckily, I knew this woman who had started a Help Center and she told me to first get a state charter and then I did all of the work- because I knew that I couldn't depend on anyone else to do it."

Let's be clear there were also personal demons that obstructed me as well, Carl notes, "I had been a drug addict and had been in drug rehabilitation. I was getting a social security check, so I took that money and paid for the charter. After I got the info on the 501(c)3, I wrote that up and paid for that out of my social security check... then I had to ask people to give me some food to eat to help get me through. "

Finally the organization got non-profit status and its charter. Then they started to write for grants. Carls voice rise, "I went to Title 1 meetings and got the blues. I had to fuss and cuss and stand on table tops... I had to disrupt meetings in order for them to hear me! The white gay boys, who were running everything, did not allow anyone to penetrate. They got all the monies for AIDS and HIV, and

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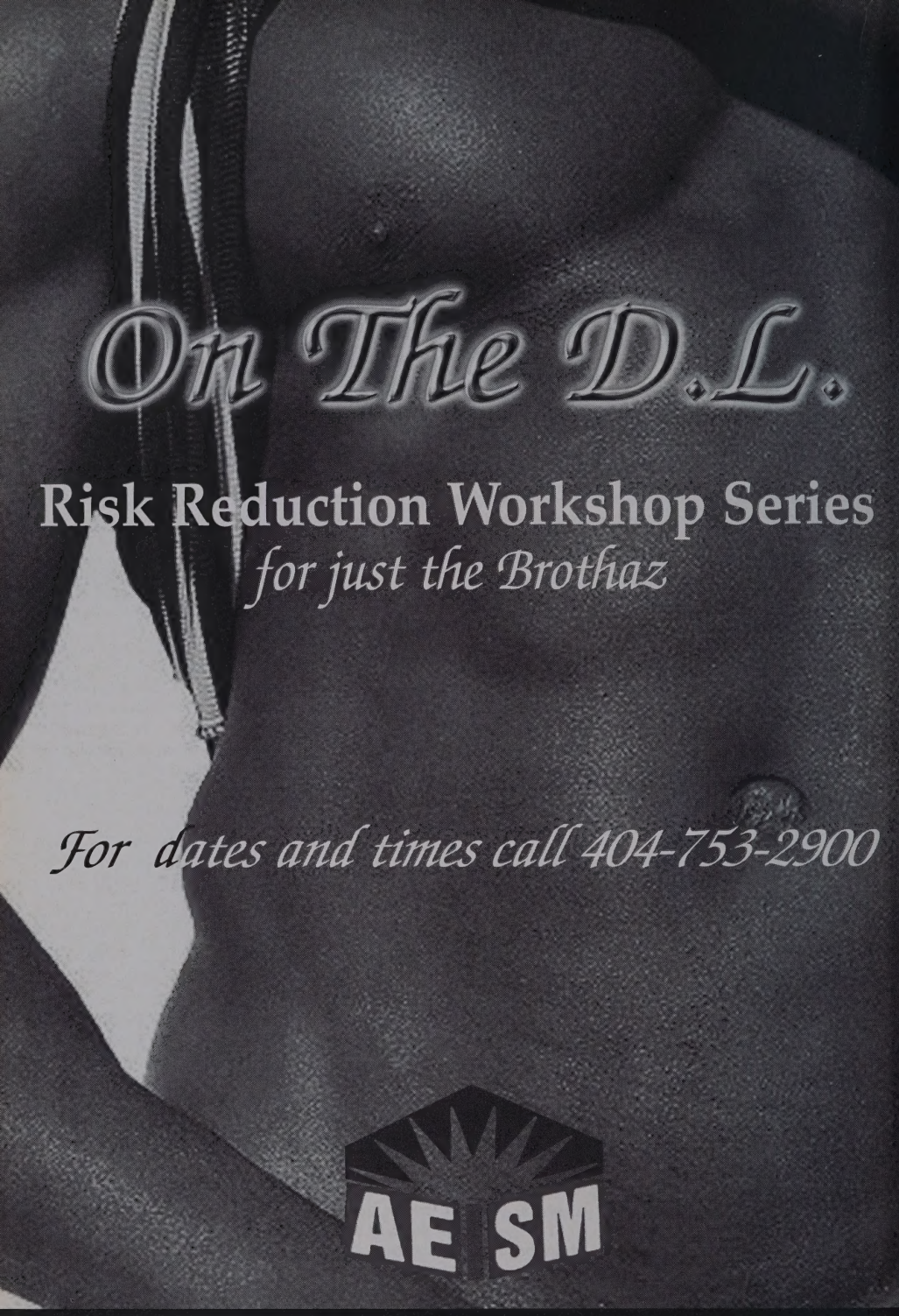

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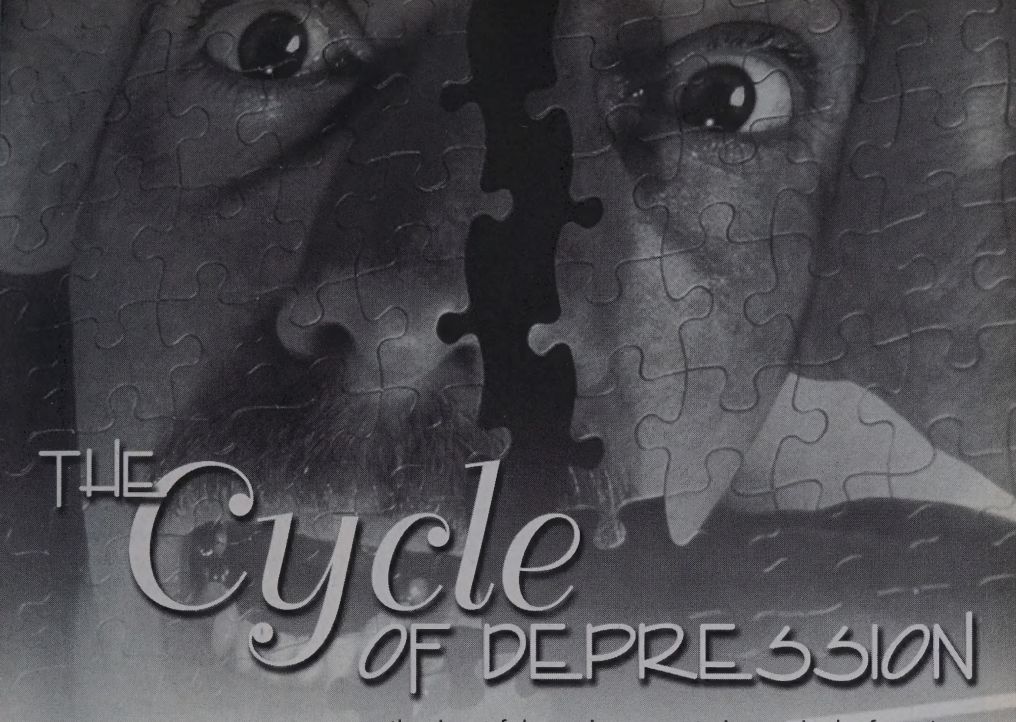


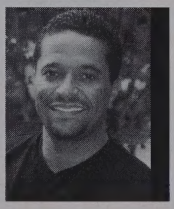
THE Cycle OF DEPRESSION

I have been dealing with some major demons lately. My life has been in total disarray and it has all been self-induced. It is so interesting how depression can set in and people can be completely oblivious to the fact. Let me explain. Last week, while at work, I called American Express to see the balance due on my account. I was completely shocked to learn that I had charged $4,932.76. I was so shocked that I had a panic attack at work. I could not catch my breath and I cried off and on for about 4 hours. Needless to say I had to leave work. If you know anything about American Express, you know that they want their money at the end of the month. I had exactly $5,000 in my savings account. Yes, I do work in corporate America and I have job that pays $48,000, but by no means is a $4900 bill budgeted. I recognize that it is a blessing that I was able to pay my bill. However, what I can not understand is how did I get to that point? In retrospect, all of the signs of depression were staring me in the face. I was missing work unable to get up and get dressed. When I did go to work I was completely unmotivated to be productive. I was not socializing with my friends. I never had any energy (I was extremely tired all of the time). And then of course there is my compulsive spending (I was looking for "things" to make me happy).

What I have realized from being in therapy off and on over the years, is that all it takes is one thought to start the cycle of depression. Some of my friends that I have spoken to about this have asked me if I am depressed because of my HIV status or if it is because I am single. I honestly do not think that it is because of my HIV status, although during this time I had stopped taking my medication (I have started taking it again). As far as the "single" comment is concerned, that could be a possibility. My opinion is that I do not believe that I can point my depression at one factor. I think that it is the result of a compilation of events throughout my life (upbringing, relationships, etc.) that I have never dealt with.

A very close friend of mine said to me that when he reads

Cycle Continues On Page 32



written by senior staff writer
Scott Bogan atlanta, ga.

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

AQUARIUS
You have a reputation for remaining cool under pressure. Keep up the routine! Your downfall this month is selfishness. Allow yourself to develop greater understanding and empathy for others and refuse to be drawn into superficial games and power plays.

PISCES
You are a natural loner, but you must come to grips that you may be that way because there is a fear of rejection that lies at the heart of your need to be alone. Open yourself to the need for others, intimacy, empathy, and understanding. Share your mental, physical, and spiritual gifts.

ARIES
This month is a time to step out of the driver's seat and become a passenger (motivator and team player). Try to avoid only seeing things in black and white and become more diplomatic. Working with others as equals will bring you much success in whatever goal you are seeking.

TAURUS
Your art of seduction will work best for you through discussion rather than lecture. You will find that this discussion will benefit your own personal needs. Have a listening ear and understanding of where others are coming from. Your strength is in your elegant style of tact and persuasion.

GEMINI
Think before you speak! You have what it takes to read someone at the drop of a hat. Try to avoid this because it will do more to hurt you than the other person. Try to be less intimidating and use your natural charm to get what or who you want.

CANCER
A surprise is coming! You will find a number of unexpected and interesting relationships this month. To make sure your deepest desires are fulfilled, reach out to others with kindness and compromise. Be very direct in your approach to succeed in every endeavor.

LEO
Its all about you baby! Don't be too self-sacrificing or take on too much personal responsibility. Putting your own needs on the back burner could result in depression and guilt. Love yourself first, while at the same time sharing your personal beauty with others.

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VIRGO
Work on your tact! Show more concern for others feelings and views. You have the power to destroy others with your sometimes painfully honest tongue. Learn to tolerate diversity and you are sure to accomplish much. Remember that holding certain facts is not necessarily manipulative, just sensible and considerate.

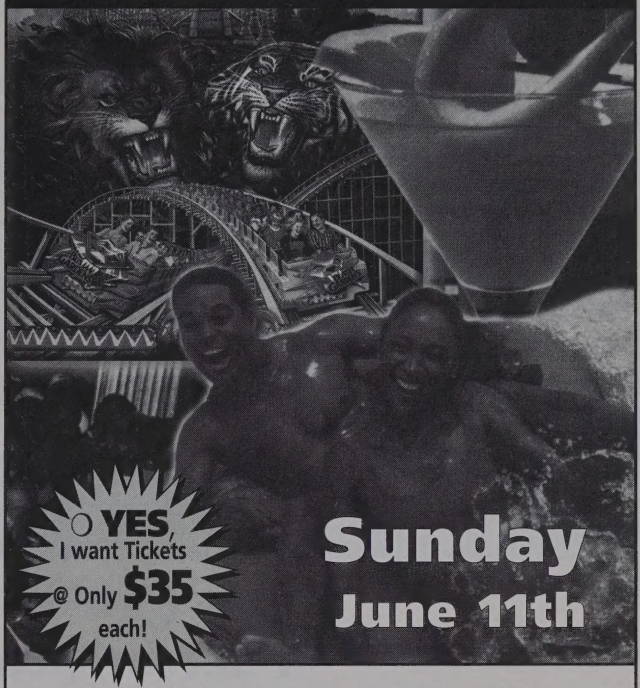
LIBRA
You have a very strong character. Use it to your advantage love! Don't be overbearing and less mindful of others needs. This could bring you more drama than you bargained for. By being nurturing and kind, you will find great personal and professional satisfaction.

SCORPIO
Let go and just enjoy life! Your natural sense of control may only be a disguised attempt at self-protection. Mutual respect and understanding are so much easier to come by. Remember that there is more to life than just getting your way. Let go and enjoy how good it feels to let someone else do the steering. It will all work out for your best interest.

SAGITTARIUS
Be mindful of your surroundings. Take some personal and professional responsibility away from yourself and allow others to step in and help. You will find that your road to success will be a lot easier with the support of the people around you. Your compassion for others has given you an invaluable reputation. Allow others to do the same for you.

CAPRICORN
Test your creative skills! Your imagination is your key to fulfillment. Permit yourself to relax, relate, and release from hard work in order to maintain mental stability. Use your imagination during this time period to shock yourself and those around you.

Tampa Jamz @ Busch Gardens Tampa



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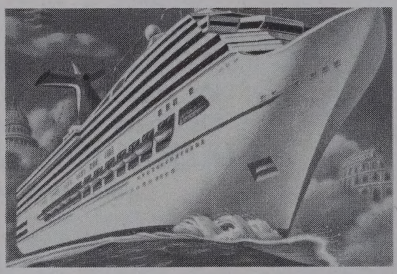

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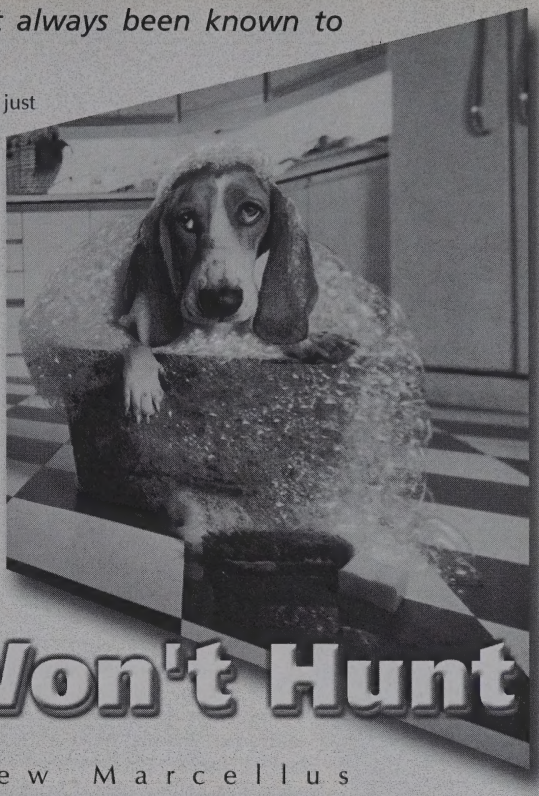
Let me do something I've not always been known to do....be completely honest.



This Dog Won't Hunt

By: Andrew Marcellus

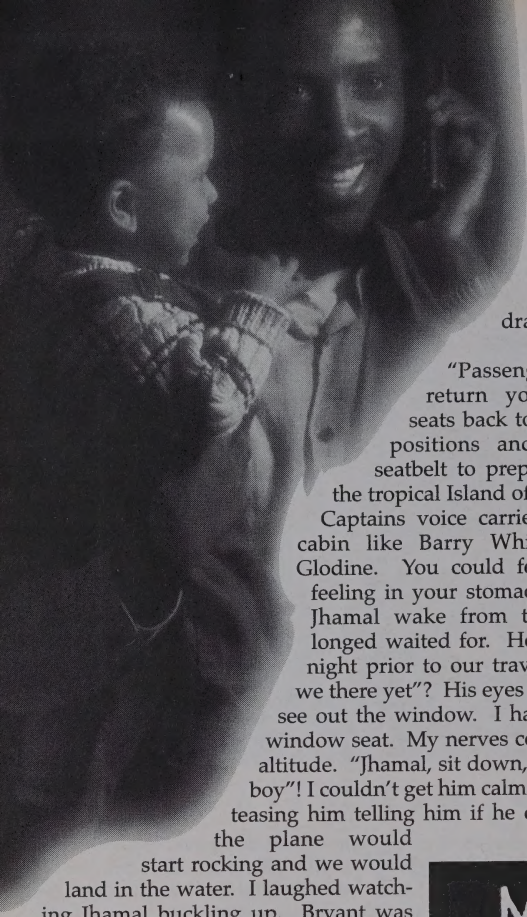
In the past four years, I've done two things that just keep following me. I've studied my ass off and earned a college degree, and I've been extremely sexually active and earned the distinction of "dog". There have been times when I have fully embraced this term. Hell, I earned it. I have absolutely done all of the things necessary to be crowned canine supreme. Spending my college years in Atlanta, I specialized in preying upon those long on ass and short on self-esteem, and it was quite beneficial for me. I had best friends, professors, mentors, mentees, two sets of brothers... You name it. I've done it.

I have been ridiculously unscrupulous. Three, four people a day. Same venue. I've gotten my clothes washed, grades changed, watches, clothes, chains, favors, just about everything. Without batting a single eyelash, I've lied and charmed my way out of more situations and angry confrontations than I can remember. Almost always getting the benefit of the most passionate please-don't-ever-leave-me sex known to black gay man. Because when lying, charm, and the threat of life without my dick didn't work, I did the supreme, grandmammy of all canine tricks. I cried. I wept and admitted that I was wrong. And it never failed. NOT ONCE. So Dog, I understand.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not proud of this behavior (at least not anymore). Now that my dog days are winding down, I've grown really tired of the hassle of multiple boys calling me, paging me, and trying to keep tabs on what I do. I've fully decided to settle down. I truly don't want to be a player no more! My problem making the transition stems from something one of my professors told me freshman year, "Baby, it's a small world, and damn if it ain't an even smaller gay world. No matter where you go, there is at least one somebody there who knows what you really are."

For me, that translates to: the word gets out after about four years of breaking good-looking boys' hearts. Now, I can walk up on a cutie who's young, professional or in the pursuit thereof, and before I can move from the look to the come-here-smile, one of his friends rushes up to recount some meaningless encounter we may have had in yesteryear and there I am. Assed out. Literally. Both my mother and sister have gleefully informed me that this is some sort of divine retribution for past injustices, and I'm not completely convinced that they are wrong to think so.

In situations like this, my usual response is to blow it off and just ho some mo'. But I've decided against that. I really am ready to find someone to genuinely love, to elevate the value of my affection above the status of a first come first served fuck for all. My own dignity and integrity as a man is more valuable than the haphazard dick slinging that has been my characteristic behavior over the past four years. The thought is tempting at times, especially with the so-called "Top Crisis" in Atlanta. My options seem to get better each year. Yet, I refuse to be one of those 35+ year-old guys in the club trying to get some AUC freshman to fall in love and keep house with him. For me, I know that I plan to build a good life with another man. So I've already gotten one dragon slain. I want a marriage of mind body and soul-something meaningful and long lasting, and if I plan to live my life with one person, there is no time like the present to start embracing monogamy and sexual restraint. So, I've decided to wait until I find someone with the potential for me to fall in love, someone that challenges me, someone I could potentially build a life with. And until I find that, this dog.... won't hunt!



My Son, His Life

The Life of a Gay Father and His Son

Mr. Jhahbriel C.E. Moore-Collins Washington, D.C.

FROM THE WRITER:
Well readers after a long holiday season and extensive traveling I am back to give you more of my sons drama.....Enjoy!!!

"Passengers please return your trays and seats back to their up right positions and fasten your seatbelt to prepare to land on the tropical Island of Jamaica." The Captains voice carried through the cabin like Barry White singing to Glodine. You could feel the sinking feeling in your stomach which made Jhamal wake from the nap I had longed waited for. He had a restless night prior to our travel. "Daddy are we there yet"? His eyes all big trying to see out the window. I had to get him a window seat. My nerves couldn't take the altitude. "Jhamal, sit down, we are landing boy"! I couldn't get him calm. Bryant started teasing him telling him if he didn't sit down the plane would start rocking and we would land in the water. I laughed watching Jhamal buckling up. Bryant was egging him on calling him Rosta' Man. "We are going swimming right"? I was trying to keep Jhamal's mind of the rough landing.

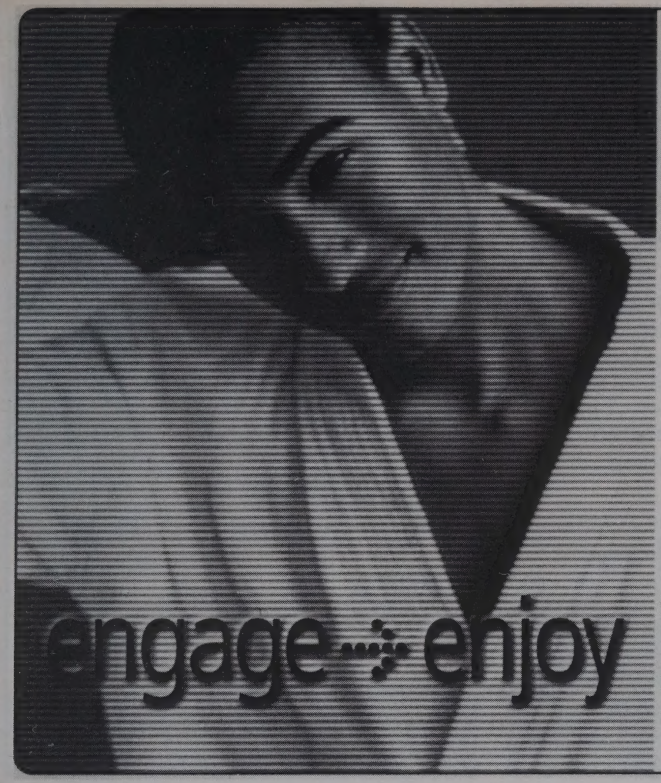
We needed this vacation after all the drama this last past summer with Jhamal's daycare (Remember the episode with the little girl calling him a faggot, Bryant and I losing several of our closest friends to that heartless disease AIDS and the drama of Jhamal's biological mother trying to figure out our family. She doesn't know the relationship my lover and I have. She sees Jhamal about once every other year and calls maybe once every other month. But when she does, she has the nerve to ask a 9 year old questions that only an adult should answer. She would never ask me. Fear of what I might say.

After settling in the hotel rooms, we decide to take Jhamal out to the beach. Standing in the lobby trying to get all the island information, you know the tourist info, we were waiting on Bryant to come down off the elevator. Slow as usual he had to be the American Mascot. He had his Red, White, and Blue swimming trunks on with the matching sandals. His goggles had to match the sandals and the big Tommy Hilfiger beach towel. "Boo, I need to get little man some sun block. You know how sensitive his skin is to the sun." That was Bryant's excuse to cruise the beach. He couldn't fool me. But hey, that gave me time to check out the layout myself and get some Q.T. time with my son. "I'll met you on the beach Bryant." He gave me that look. I said to myself, I got him.

As he left, I went to get Jhamal who was standing on the boardwalk ready to just jump in the water. He just stared at all the scenery mesmerized by the beauty of the island. He was frozen in time. All of a sudden, he darted off like a fox chasing a squirrel in the forest. "Jhamal! Jhamal!", I am yelling trying not to draw attention to myself. He was gone. I'm running trying not to look out of shape. Even though I know better and I am sure the guest around me probably figured that out. I am sweating and panting like a big old beach whale. I finally catch up to him to find him standing staring at this couple lying under a wide beach umbrella. His face frowned up like was trying to solve a puzzle. "Son what's wrong?" He was scaring me. All of sudden he yelled to the top of his lungs, "MAMA!!!!!!"

To be continued next month when....

*Jhamal's vacation turns out to be the his ex-wife's honeymoon spot.
*Shawanda gets to met Bryant her x-husbands lover.



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Cycle Continued From Page 25

my writing he sees such clarity but that is not the person that he knows. He is absolutely right. The person that has written all of the previous articles is the person that I would like to be. I would like to be the strong person that always expresses love, that always finds the good in everything and everybody, that is able to find a life lesson in every situation, a person that is able to forgive himself and others. The "real" Scott is confused, alone, lonely, uncertain, guarded (unable to trust) and scared. Scared of being rejected. Scared of allowing someone into my heart. Scared of being alone for the rest of my life. Scared of not being accepted. Because of these fears (that barely touch the surface) I guard myself with a wall of defense that allows me to cope. For instance, I say that don't "hang out" because I don't enjoy myself. The truth is that after standing in a club for hours being passed up by men that I find attractive and to afraid of rejection to approach them, I cannot endure the feeling of unworthiness. And the cycle of depression starts all over again.

At my mother's insistence, I have returned to therapy. However, this time I have decided to start taking anti-depressants. In the past, anti-depressants have been recommended to me however, because of the stigma that comes along with such a medication, I had refused. This time has not been much different. I wrestled with the idea of adding one more chemical to my body (as if I don't have enough chemicals racing through my body). I also did not like the idea that I am not in control of me, not to mention people possibly thinking that I am crazy. But after doing some research and talking to friends, I realized that I am not alone. People that I would have never suspected have taken or are still taking anti-depressants. So, I start on Paxil next week. The therapist says that I should have more energy and be more focused.

I do not have a clear and defined way to end this article. I usually end with some kind of insight that offers how I have resolved my issues. I wish that this were the case this time, however it is not. Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers. In return I will keep you updated. Peace and blessings to all.

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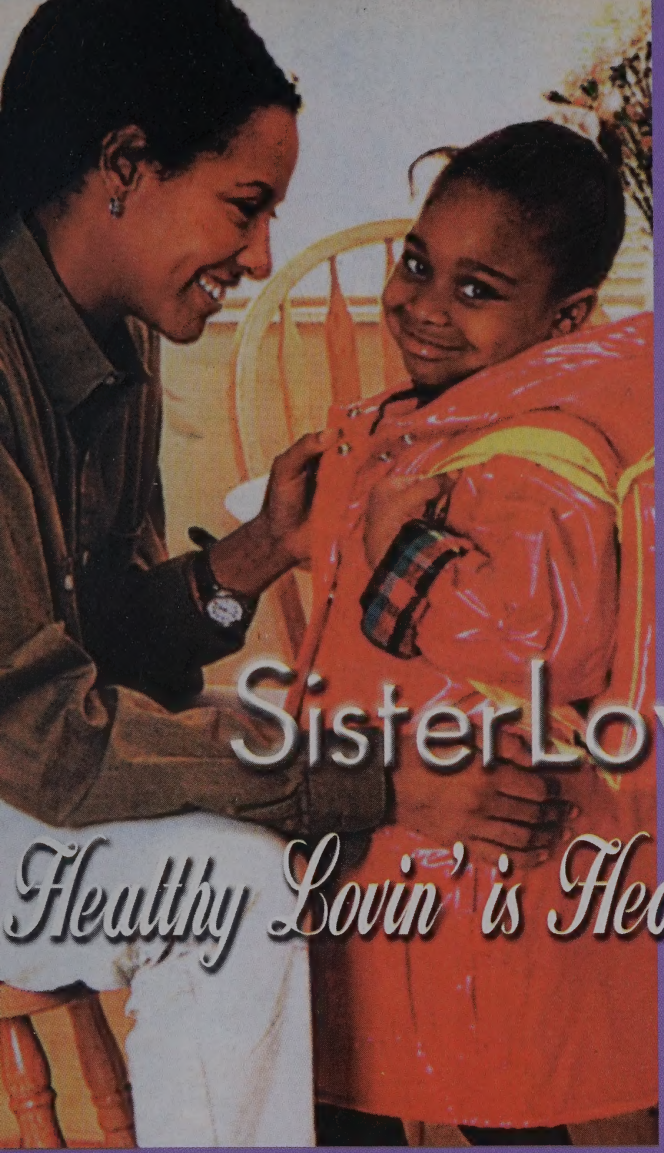

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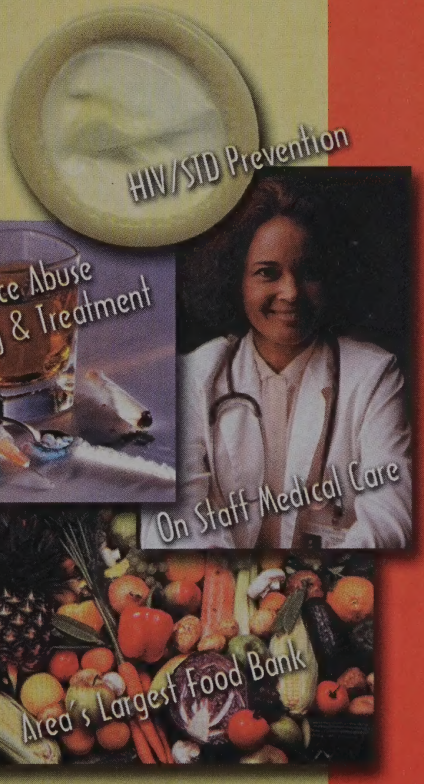

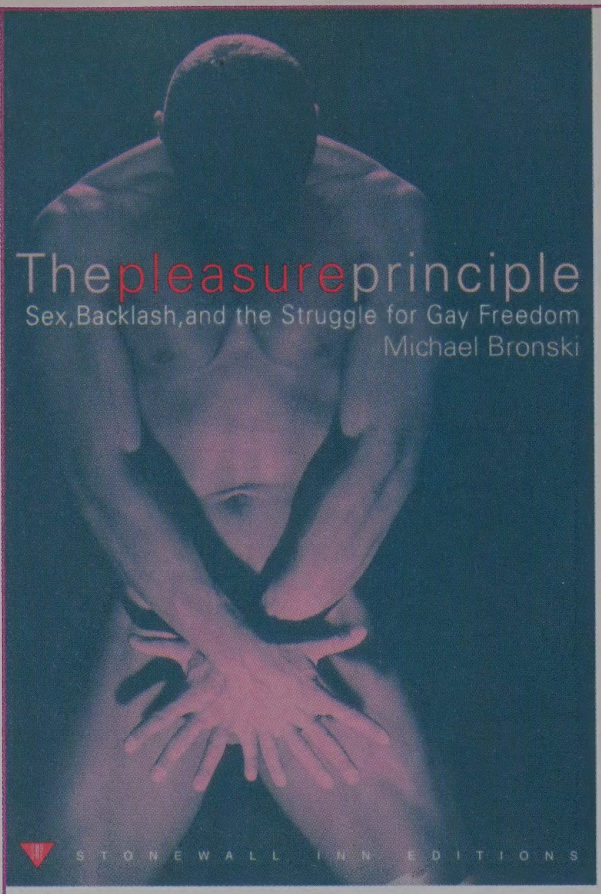

Fact or Fiction?

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"What would **he** wear," he wondered, thinking back on the night he'd met David at Outwrite, flipping though that buff boy book.

"I need coffee," James decided, and headed ou for a latte. "Why am I so nervous?" he thought, exasperated at himself. "It's just a date..."

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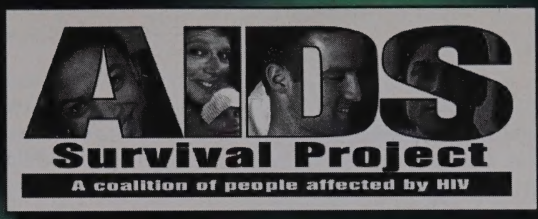

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Trois

Young African American Fi

What happens when 2 is not enough and 3 is not a crowd, at least not at first. Trois, is what happens, a new release from Rainforest Productions, is a love story-drama-thriller-suspense film like none other you have ever seen. For those who have been awaiting the arrival of a new African-American cinematic master piece can rest, now knowing that Trois has arrived. Rest you can but once you see this movie it may keep you up at night wondering about menage trios'- when to have one, how to have one, and with whom to have one. As the old saying goes select your mate(s) wisely, Trois brings this point to a head and drives it home with dynamic punctuation.

From the first frame to the last, Trois, draws you deeper and deeper into its orifices, it pulsates with passion, moving faster and faster, deeper and deeper, faster and deeper until it causes an eruption of feelings, thoughts, and desire while tantalizing your pallet with raw cinematic X-X-X-tacy rarely seen in a movie absent of Hollywood's power, prestige, and funding.

"...it pulsates with passion, moving faster and faster, deeper and deeper, faster and deeper until it causes an eruption of feelings, thoughts, and desire...."

Trois is a tribute to the dedication of a few people who had a vision and sought support to bring it into fruition. Literally hundreds of people helped bring this baby from the page to the silver screen. In a fashion worthy of the first African American owned and run motion picture outfit, The Lincoln Motion Picture Co. (Harlem Renaissance), director Rob Hardy and producers William Packer, Gregory Anderson and Rainforest

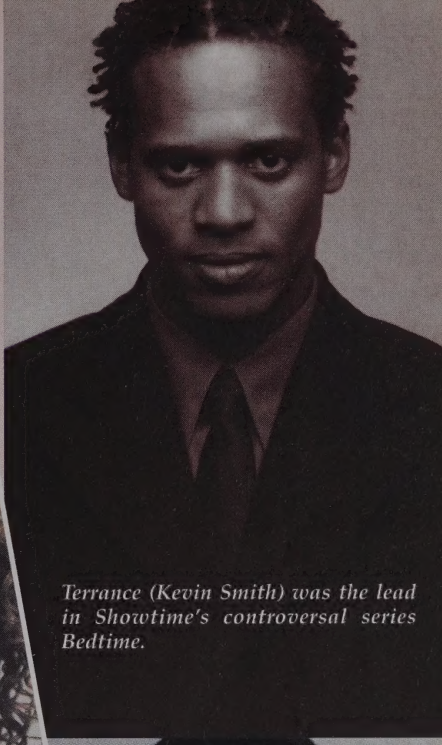
Jermaine (Gary Dourdan) is a young corporate tycoon, newly married and has recently moved to Atlanta. Jermaine becomes bored with his seemingly mundane lifestyle at home... find out how he deals with this problem.

roductions will make you proud to be African American vhile offering you a different look into African American sex nd sexuality.

his film has no barriers and holds no bars. It challenges ideas f normal sex, freaky sex, married life, homosexuality, and isexuality. While it offers its share of homophobic rhetoric it lso offers a surprising option for viewers to challenge these noughts and causes you to wonder just how different hetero- exuals may be from homosexuals. While the film dares to hallenge concepts and constructs it also makes room for dia- ogue. With no shortage of male posturing and female signify- ng, Trois, inadvertently addresses family values, personal norals, and various challenges in society from the legal sys- em, marriage, battered women, abandoned children, and sex- al promiscuity.

his film opens in select theaters around the ation in February. It stars the alents and beauty of enya Moore, retchen Palmer, ary Dourdan, Bryce Vilson, Chrystale Vilson and the electri- ying Solomon K. Smith, long with the enowned (and yet to get is due) actor Thomas yrd. Please if there is othing else you do for his African American listory month, join the pro- ucers, cast, crew and irector of Trois and make istory our story by making his one of the most successful ndependent film entries into he American movie scene in istory. It's a movie by us, bout us, and for us as a com- nunity- a nation of people. It's ot enough twists, turns and sur- rises, to keep you satisfied for nonths- or at least until your next rois.

Jade (Gretchen Palmer) Leading lady to Master P in his film I Got Tha' Hook-Up)



Terrance (Kevin Smith) was the lead in Showtime's controversal series Bedtime.

Jasmine (Kenya Moore) Former Miss USA and actress with roles in Waiting to exhale and Sense...

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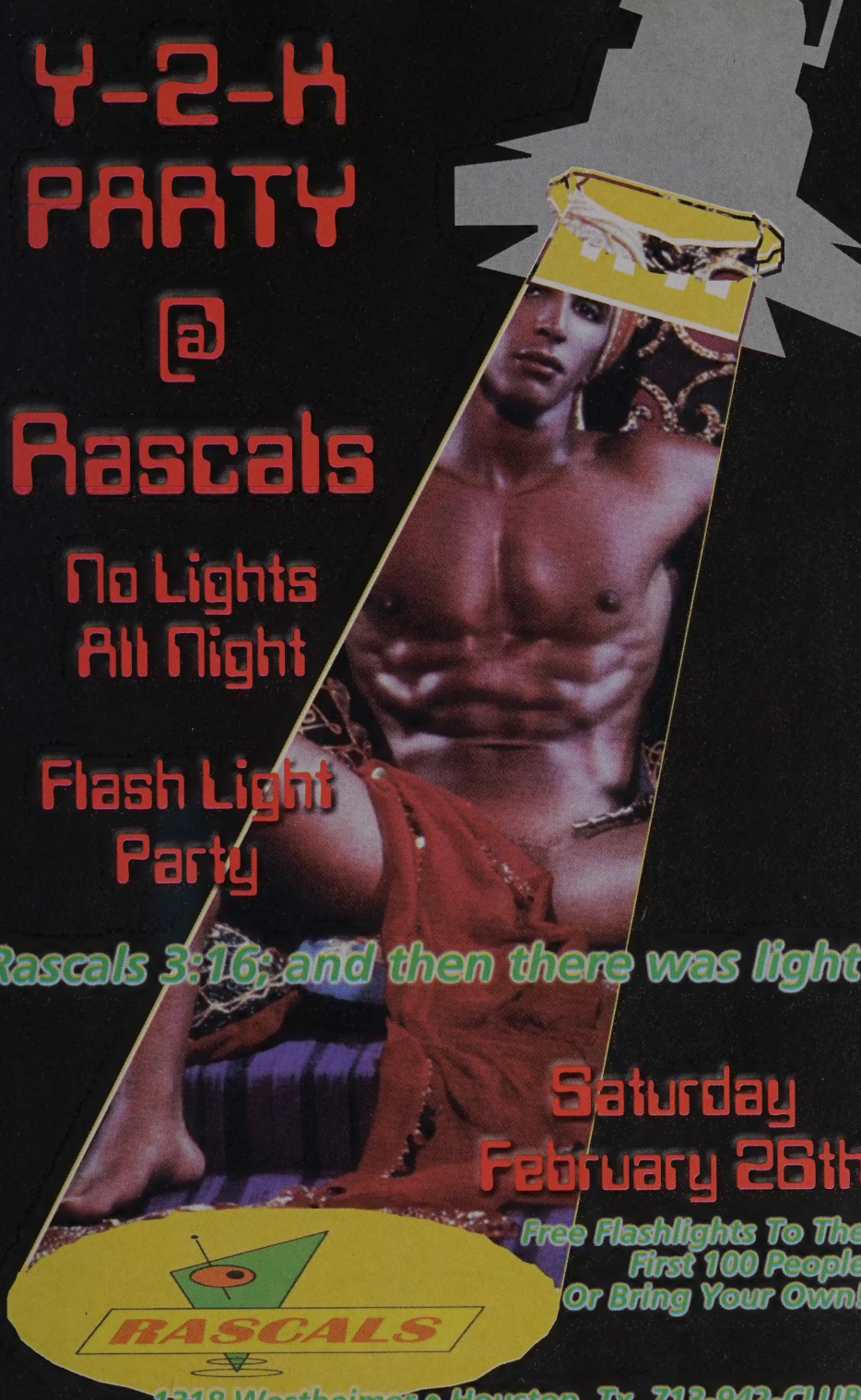

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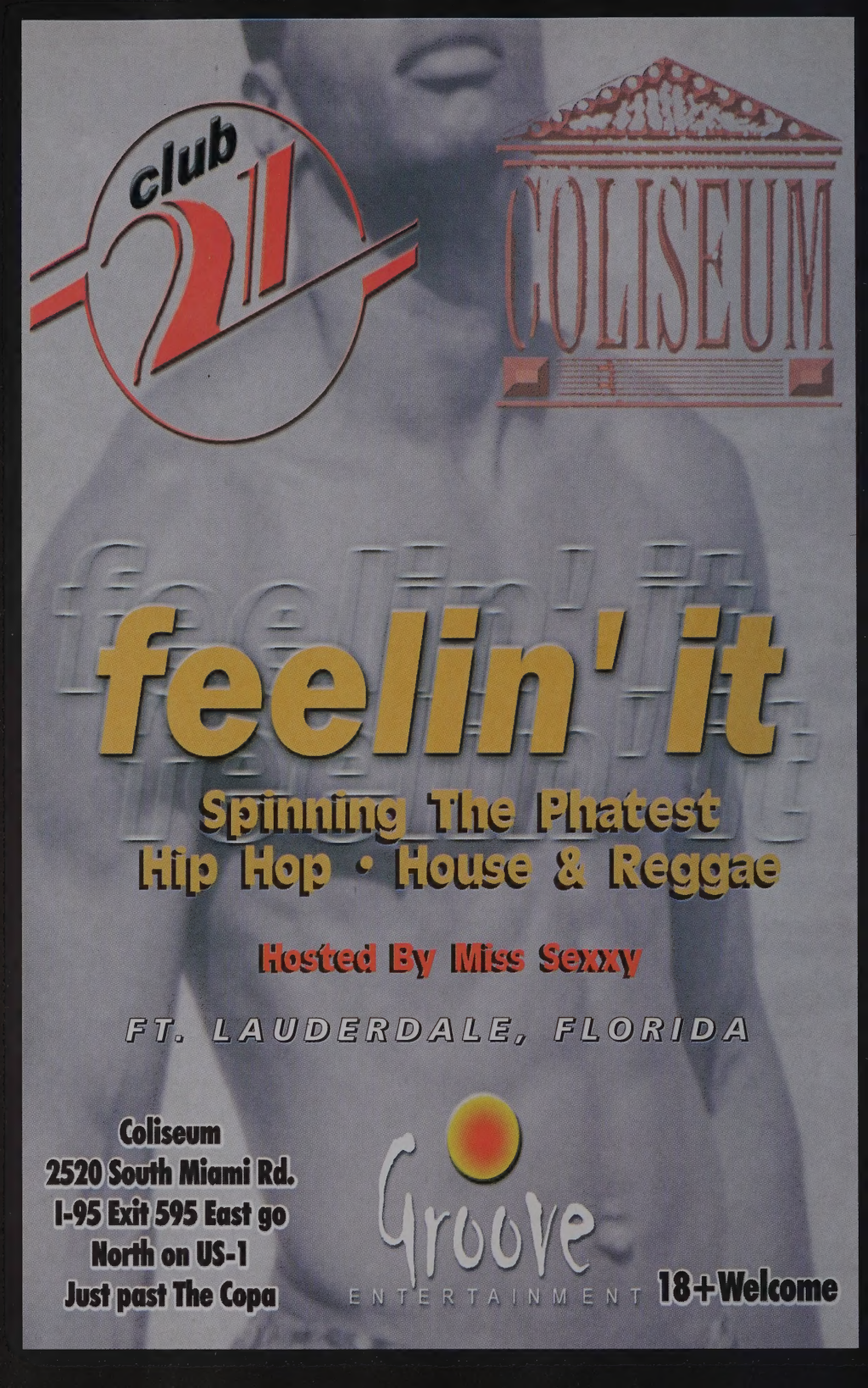
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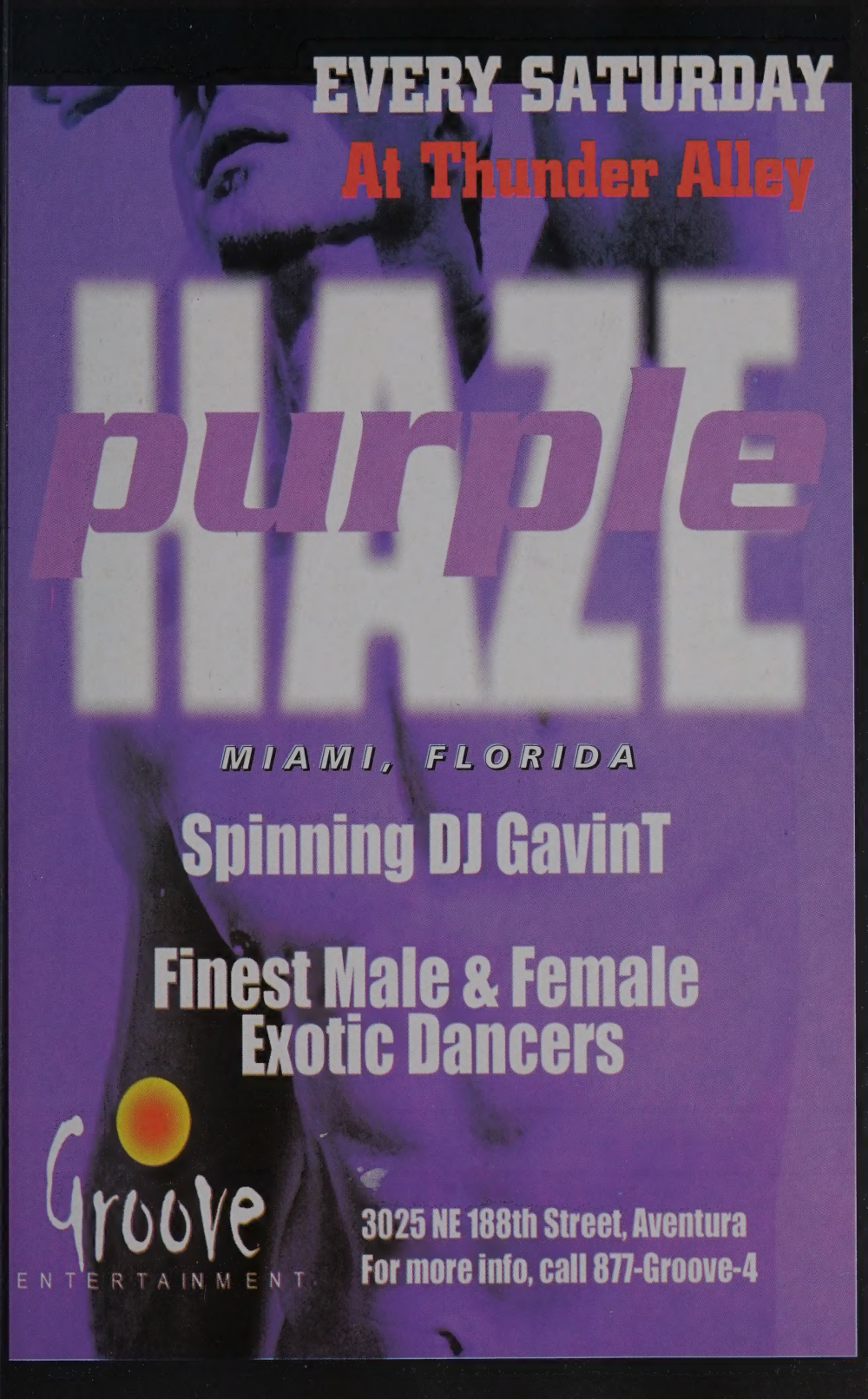
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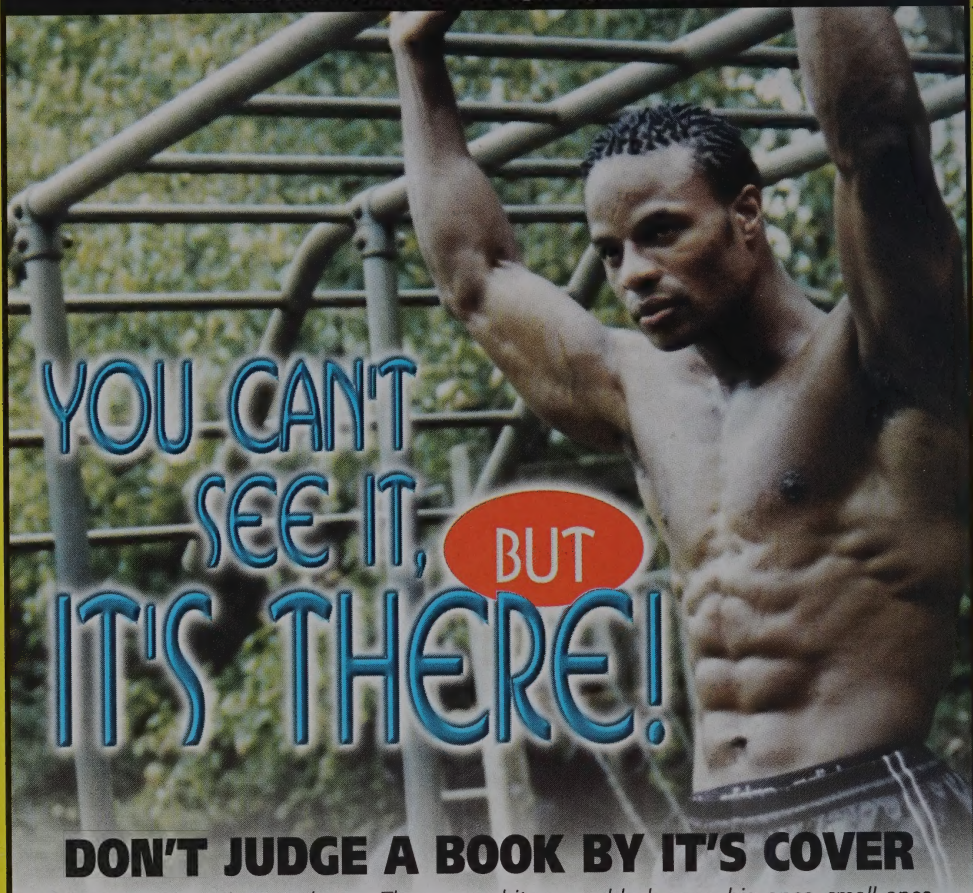
Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Model Represented Here Is Being Used For Illustration Only, His HIV status is not known

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

HIV Comes in various packages. There are white ones, black ones, big ones, small ones, short ones, tall ones, sexy ones, and not so sexy ones. You can't identify an HIV infected person by just looking at them. Therefore, always use a Latex Condom and a waterbased lubricant when intimate with that special person. When used properly, latex condoms are effective against HIV, STDs and Pregnancies

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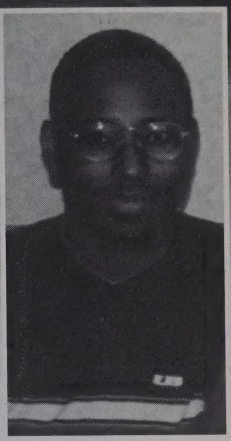


Various
Soul in Your Spacesuit
Toko Records

Hailing from Sheffield, England, this upstart house label has been garnering serious praise usually afforded to established labels like Guidance. One listen to Spacesuit reveals the substance behind the buzz. The 10 singles collected here are glittering examples of superb jazz and funk-inflected house.

The first track sets the tone for the 74 minute ride: a solid bed of crisp beats and rumbling bass over which moody solos (from keyboards, guitars and samplers) take the listener to the inner depths of aural pleasure. "Gumbo," the aforementioned jam, rides along a keyboard solo that evokes shades of vintage jazz-funk; a smooth guitar carries the day on the cooled-out (and very Guidance-sounding) "Sunday Session."

The liner notes heap appropriate praise on one Si Brad, who is really the star of the show here, performing on almost every track. He is the straw that stirs Toko's drink, and based on the results here, it's one that everybody ought to sip on when thirsty for sublime dance music.

Mos Def
Black on Both Sides
Rawkus

By now I know you've heard of this record, one of the most anticipated of the last few years. Nearly two years after Lauryn Hill's challenge to hip hop orthodoxy, Mos Def has matched her game and raised it to another level with his debut. Taking in elements from the spectrum of black music, Mos has crafted a wonderfully diverse album that commands your attention from the get-go. With production handled by a variety of people, it's up to Mos Def to be the unifying factor of the record, and he responds by drawing upon his experience as an actor, playing a variety of roles including preacher ("Hip Hop"), teacher ("Fear Not of Man," "Got"), social critic ("Mr. Nigga," "Rock and Roll"), and verbal sparring partner ("Do It Now," "Know That"). Based on the results heard here, MD is going to be one of the leading lights of the decade and it will be interesting to hear where he goes from here. If you buy one rap record this year, it should be this. Black may not change your world, but it will restore your faith in music as a vehicle for nourishing your intellect and your body at the same time.

Various
Nuphonic 2
Nuphonic

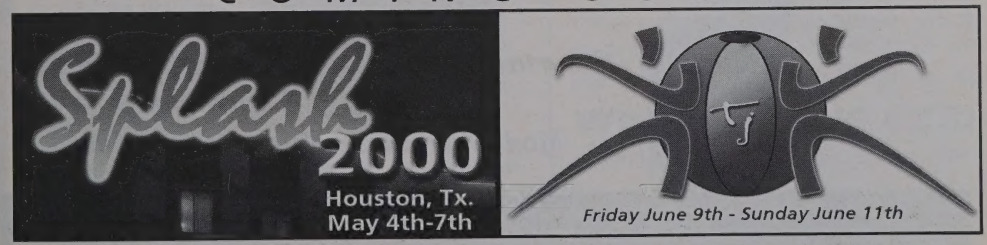
Top UK label Nuphonic drops its second compilation of tasty musical morsels for our listening pleasure. True to the label's ethic of eclecticism, the selections are varied, ranging from the downtempo groove of Natural Calamity to the spiritual house anthem "Michael" by Roy Davis Jr., with forays into rumbling funk-house via Fuzz Against Junk, who turn the Talking Heads into a group you may actually respect once you hear their version of "Born Under Punches." Elsewhere, Faze Action and Soul Ascendants revive Chic-era strings on "Moving Cities" and "String Thing," respectively. And that's only half the lineup on the disc! As each of these tunes would run you over $10 on import vinyl, be thankful that this is available domestically. Whether as background music, the focal point of your next party, or as driving music, Nuphonic 2 delivers the goods. Listen and enjoy.

MUSIC

Quartet
Other Side of the Tracks
Pivotal (website: http://www.pivotalrecords.com)

Jazzy drum-n-bass is the order of the day with this disc from Quartet. This group of musicians is affiliated with d-n-b don Peshay, whose production here brings him one step closer to the jazz/drum-n-bass synthesis he's been pushing for the last 5 years. The opening "Apollo 486" is a sci-fi account of a meeting with aliens that is a subtle commentary on our planet, while the title cut is an instrumental hip-hop respite from the frenetic pace of the other tunes.

COMING SOON

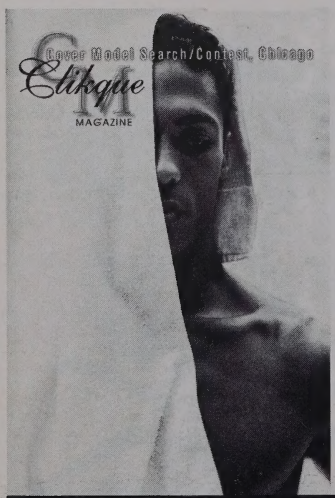


Clikque Magazine Launch Party In

New Orleans, La.

MARCH 17TH, 2000

Join The Staff Of Clikque Magazine Along With The Reigning Mr. & Miss Clikque America 2000, As They Take On The City Of New Orleans.



March 17th, 2000

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Clikque Magazine Is The Nation's Premiere Publication For And About Same Gender Loving People of Color

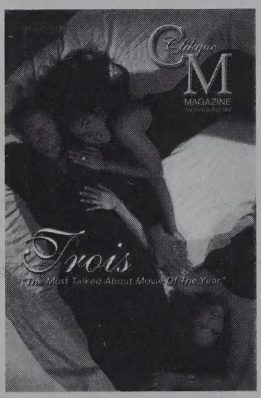
Salutations Clikque Readers !!!

For the month of February the Clikque Magazine Family would like to wish Dwight Powell (Ownwer/Publisher) a Happy Birthday as he hits the big 30!!! Also Craig Washington, a staff writer here at Clikque Celebrates his xx birthday this month.

Clikque Magazine will be collecting donations this month and throughout the year to go towards CMSF (Clikque Magazine Scholarship Fund). This scholarship will be given to a college student once a year to assist him/her in getting an education. The amount of the scholarship will depend soley on the amount of donations received. Please give to our future leaders. For questions on qualifications for this scholarship, please call James Martin @ 404-817-3898 or e-mail him at Clikquem@ aol.com. Look for canisters at your local clubs-please give generously, your gift may change the life of someone who desires continued education.

CLIKQUE WORLD CALENDER: Clikque wants to know what is going on around the nation. Please let us know about special events, regular events/meetings/support groups, and other happenings and "going's-on" in your town, city, state, or organization.

SUBMISSIONS: Clikque is always interested in submissions of stories, poetry, articles, or excerpts from you our readers and sponsors. Your submission can be considered for publication at anytime from the date we receive it. If you include contact information we will let you know when, and if, your work will be published. Our editor will also respond to every submission, published or not. The deadline for submissions for time sensitive materials is the 2nd Thursday of each month, for publication in the following month's issue. Clikque reserves the right to publish or refuse to publish any materials submitted.



Forward Calender information or Submissions material to our copy editor, Darryl! , at Clikque Magazine to our office via e-mail or snail mail. Materials can be sent typed and printed, on 3.5 disk in Simple Text, MSWord, or Wordperfect, or via e-mail: Clikquem@aol.com. For more information or instructions contact our office.

Upcoming events for Clikque Magazine include:

March 17th — New Orleans, La
Magazine Launch Party

April 21 — Atlanta, Ga.
Anniversary Party / Atlanta

May 4-7 — Houston,Tx
Splash/Anniversary Pool Party

May 26-29, Washington DC
DC. Pride (Memorial Day Wknd)

June 9-11, Tampa, Fl
Tampa Jamz 2000 (Beach Party)

June 30-July 2,
New York Pride - Party

July 7-9 Chicago, IL
Chicago Pride - Pool Party

July 14-16, Detrot, Mi
Detroit Pride - Pool Party

August 6, Atlanta, Ga.
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Other events are also scheduled, details to follow. If you would like to be on our... ***MAILING LIST*** Visit Us At

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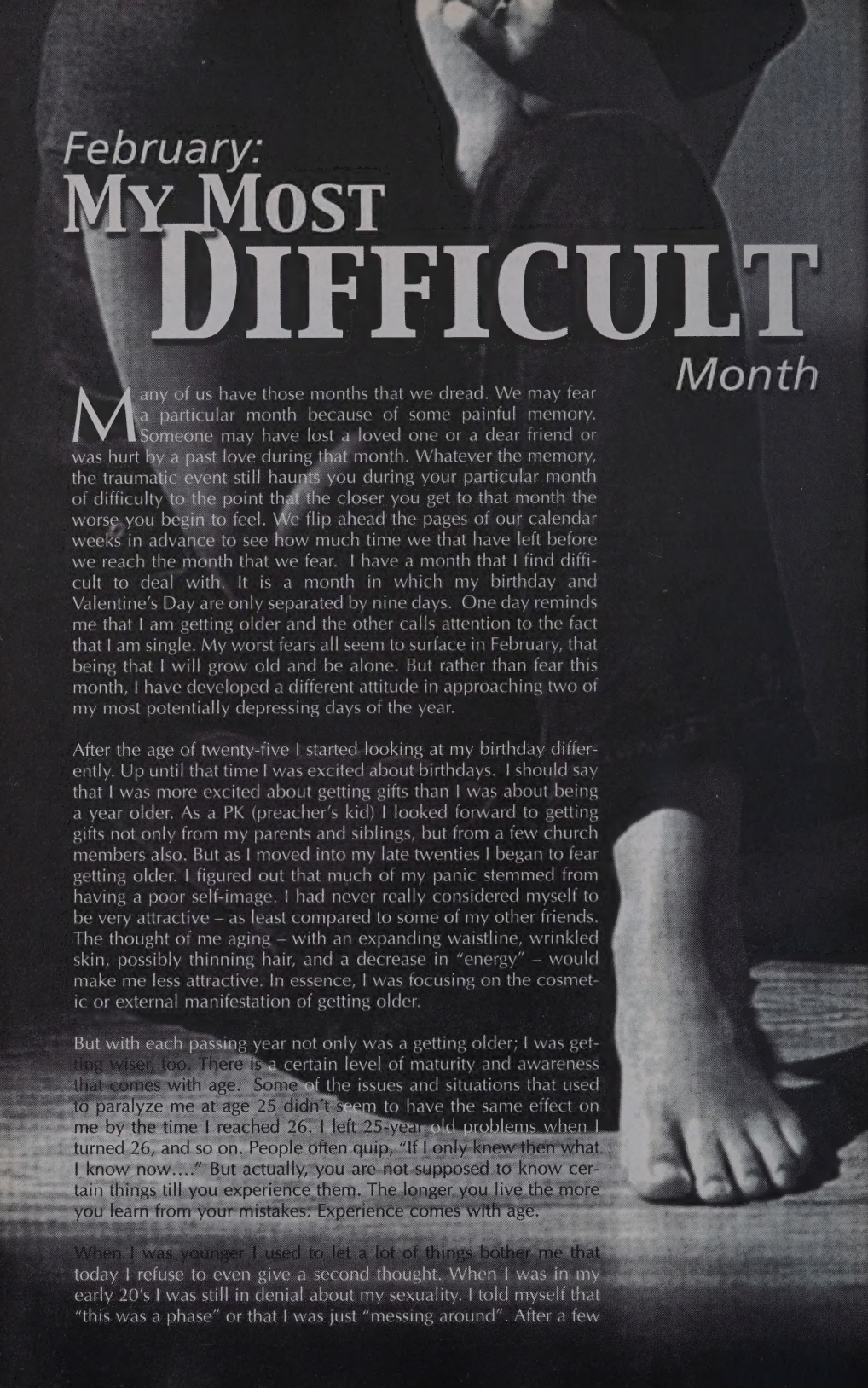


February: My Most Difficult *Month*

Many of us have those months that we dread. We may fear a particular month because of some painful memory. Someone may have lost a loved one or a dear friend or was hurt by a past love during that month. Whatever the memory, the traumatic event still haunts you during your particular month of difficulty to the point that the closer you get to that month the worse you begin to feel. We flip ahead the pages of our calendar weeks in advance to see how much time we that have left before we reach the month that we fear. I have a month that I find difficult to deal with. It is a month in which my birthday and Valentine's Day are only separated by nine days. One day reminds me that I am getting older and the other calls attention to the fact that I am single. My worst fears all seem to surface in February, that being that I will grow old and be alone. But rather than fear this month, I have developed a different attitude in approaching two of my most potentially depressing days of the year.

After the age of twenty-five I started looking at my birthday differently. Up until that time I was excited about birthdays. I should say that I was more excited about getting gifts than I was about being a year older. As a PK (preacher's kid) I looked forward to getting gifts not only from my parents and siblings, but from a few church members also. But as I moved into my late twenties I began to fear getting older. I figured out that much of my panic stemmed from having a poor self-image. I had never really considered myself to be very attractive – as least compared to some of my other friends. The thought of me aging – with an expanding waistline, wrinkled skin, possibly thinning hair, and a decrease in "energy" – would make me less attractive. In essence, I was focusing on the cosmetic or external manifestation of getting older.

But with each passing year not only was a getting older; I was getting wiser, too. There is a certain level of maturity and awareness that comes with age. Some of the issues and situations that used to paralyze me at age 25 didn't seem to have the same effect on me by the time I reached 26. I left 25-year old problems when I turned 26, and so on. People often quip, "If I only knew then what I know now…." But actually, you are not supposed to know certain things till you experience them. The longer you live the more you learn from your mistakes. Experience comes with age.

When I was younger I used to let a lot of things bother me that today I refuse to even give a second thought. When I was in my early 20's I was still in denial about my sexuality. I told myself that "this was a phase" or that I was just "messing around". After a few

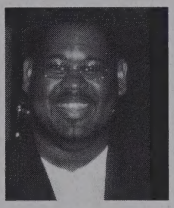
years of struggle I came to grips with who I am. Many brothers never had to go through the struggle that I did over their sexuality. They realize their same-sex attraction early on and embrace it. It was at least until my late 20's that I began to embrace my orientation. And with each passing year I learn to appreciate the fact that God did not make a mistake when he made me.

Getting older has made me focus on what is really important. Things like designer clothing, whether someone likes me or not, the issue of other brothers dating white men, the need to attend every party or club event, whether guys found me attractive or not, or the pursuit of material gain no longer heads the list of my priorities. None of the aforementioned are as important as genuine concerns such as strengthening ties to my friends, giving back to my community by setting an example for young people and to mentor younger same-gender-loving/gay brothers and sisters. I could not have been a mentor when I was in my early twenties because I was not comfortable enough with my own sexuality to be able to mentor anyone else who was struggling. Aging certainly has its advantages because back then I was an emotional wreck compared to the person that has matured into one who is writing an article for a Black gay/SGL magazine.

Valentine's Day can be a very traumatic and stressful day for those of us who are perpetually single. This day like no other can really drive home the fact that we are single and in most cases lonely. We are told that Valentine's Day is a holiday for lovers. Most of us have at least one friend who is in a relationship. We watch with envy as they make plans to celebrate the holiday by exchanging gifts or having a night on the town or spending a romantic evening at home. The most that single folks can hope for is a Valentine's card or maybe a box of candy from a friend or a parent. But we sometimes compound our anguish when we reminisce about past loves or relationships that went awry. Some of these relationships held fond memories for us, particularly on Valentine's Day. But when we stop to think about what could have been or what should have been or even what was, we compound our misery and begin to sing the Valentine's Day Blues.

I think that what gets many of us down during Valentine's Day is not so much that we don't have a lover in our lives. Why would feel more miserable on February 14th than we do on February 13th or any other day? I suspect that we magnify our own despair by drudging up memories of those brothers that got away. We think about those brothers that we thought were "the one" or "our soulmate". We remember those special moments and those cherished times that we spent with our now lost loves and we get bitter because we don't share those same moments with that person - or with anyone - on Valentine's Day. We punish ourselves by thinking that if we had done things differently then perhaps we would have that person, or one of those persons, in our lives as a mate. But we really don't know how much emotional damage we cause ourselves by brooding over what was and what might have been.

Over the past three years I have met guys that I thought was "the one". I would have visions of getaway weekends and celebrating Christmas and Valentine's Day with this particular person only to have the images later short-circuited. Some of these "potentials" weren't relationship material in the sense that they weren't ready for a commitment. In other words, they were 'hoes. But I would annually find myself a week or so before Valentine's Day browsing through my phone directory looking for someone that I could go out with on the fateful 14th. Even if they lived in another city, I would be willing to travel just to say that I didn't spend

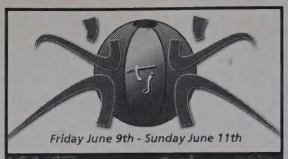


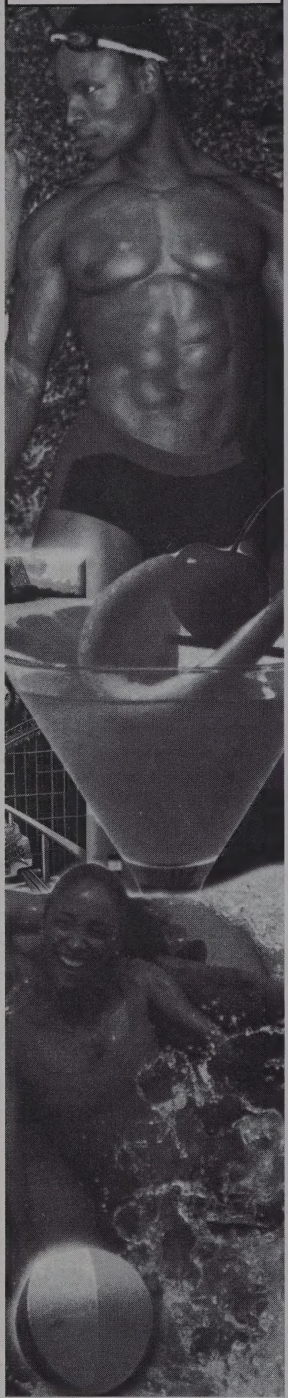
written by staff writer
Lee Jones louisville, ky.

Valentine's Day alone and that at least for one night I got it right with this person. I could pretty much handle being alone the other three hundred and sixty-four days of the year but I did not want to be alone on day number forty-five. This act of searching my phone directory made me feel even more miserable because with each flip of the page another reminder of a dashed relationship stared me in the face.

My friend and I had a discussion on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day about relationships. We have been friends for about two and a half years but we never really talked seriously about our desire to find Mr. Right. But on today he asked me if I was serious about wanting to have a relationship with someone. I told him that I am and he said that he was, too. Then we proceeded to talk about some of our recent "potentials" that turned sour because of games or perceived power plays. It seemed that the more we talked about our recent failures the more that we kept reaching further back into our relationship files to dig up tales of other flops. Both of us took turns volleying sob stories across the phone line, all the while making ourselves angrier, more bitter and dejected. We were throwing one of the best pity parties that I'd witnessed in a while. We allowed ourselves to be victims of our past. We really didn't begin feeling bitter and dejected until we began to recall those brothers that we thought should have been "the one".

Continues On Page 52





DIFFICULT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

I suspect that a number of us throw a Valentine Day pity party similar to the one that my friend and I were hosting. My friend and I are content with being single. In fact, we talked about the advantages of being single. This is not to say that we don't desire having someone special in our lives. But we are not depressed or bitter or dejected because we are single. However when we dipped back into the past we found ourselves being bitter and feeling dejected and lonely over our relationship casualties.

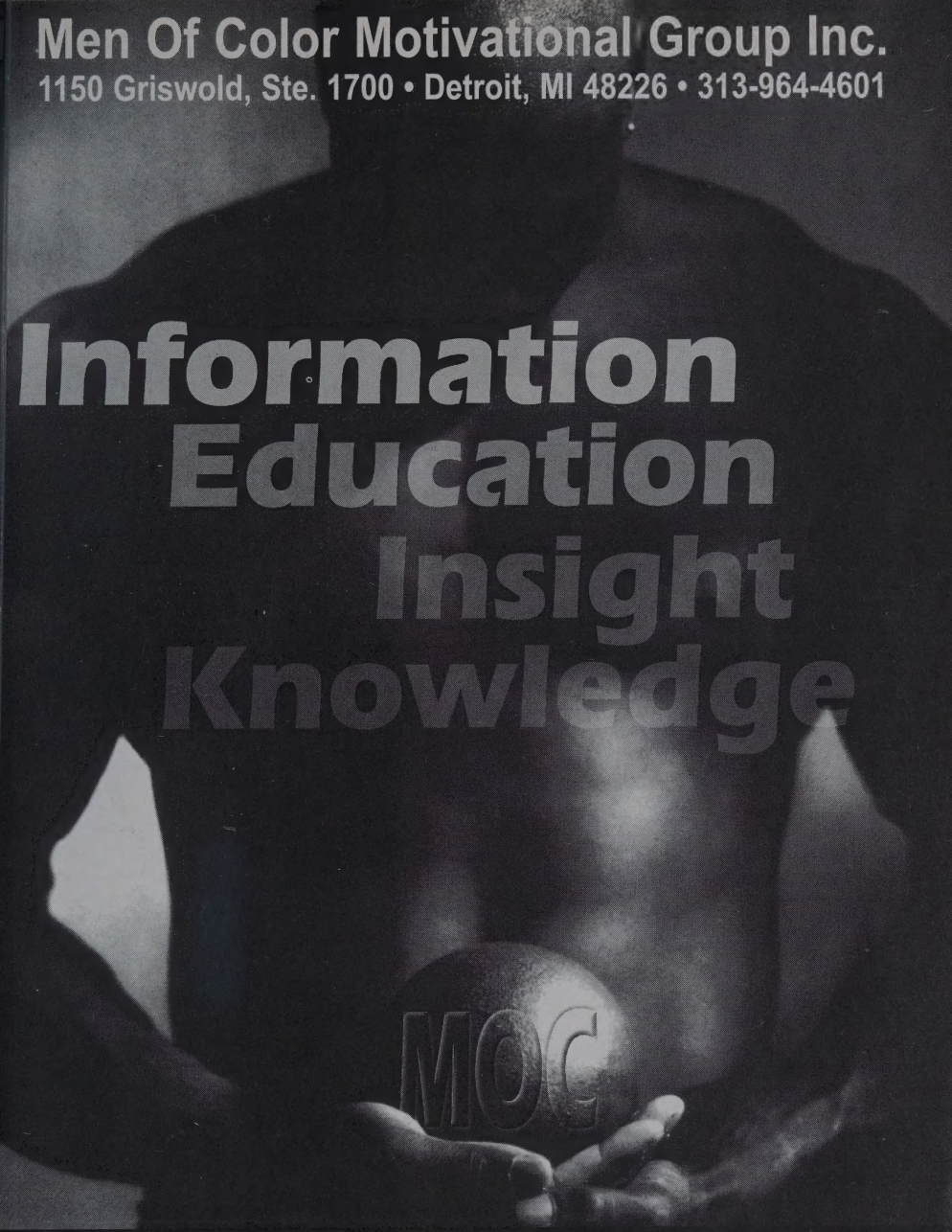
If one is not careful Valentine's Day can give you what I call the Wizard of Oz syndrome. The Scarecrow, Dorothy, the Tin Man and the Lion were all looking for something that they already possessed. Many of us are bitter because we are looking for love and companionship. We think that love can only be expressed in the context of a relationship. We can celebrate and enjoy loving relationships without having a lover. Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love. But couples don't have a monopoly on that day. We can celebrate the love we share with our friends, family and most importantly with ourselves. Be happy and love who you are. If you can't love yourself when you are single then even when you form a relationship with someone you will still be searching for the love that only you can give yourself. It is important to have someone love you, but it is more important to love yourself. You can't love anyone properly till you love yourself first. If you are looking for someone to make you complete then you will never find that person. If you are waiting for Mr. or Ms. Right then be sure that you yourself are Mr. or Ms. Right. But in the meantime don't hoard or neglect your uniquely human desire to love. Share it with friends and family. You will feel better and probably make someone's day. And don't wait till February 14th to do it. And don't forget to love the remaining 320 days of the year.

My most difficult month is February. But I have decided to conquer this month by putting a positive spin on the two days that make my month so difficult. I am glad that I have birthdays. When I feel myself beginning to fret over getting older then I think about my friend who was murdered on February 22, 1992 at the age of 24. A deeply closeted, self-hating young trade killed him while my friend was driving in a residential neighborhood. My friend was a mentor and a role model to me. When I think of all that he was set accomplish before his tragic death I feel obligated to honor his memory by being the best African-American same gender-loving male that I can be. Not only am I now living for myself, I am living for others. My divine assignment does not require that I be young, it means that I just have to mature enough to fulfill to the best of my ability. And dealing with Valentine's Day has become less of a chore, as I get older. I realize that the juvenile emphasis on having a person "Be My Valentine" is limiting. If you love someone, whether they are your mate or not, show them how much you love them everyday of the year, not just on February 14th. I didn't realize how much I loved my deceased friend until after he was gone. I regret that I did not express my love as much as I should while he was alive. That's why I am not as down as I used to be on Valentine's Day. My love is not predicated on whether I have someone in my life or not. It is determined by whether I am willing to give my affection to the people that I really do love.

Whatever difficult period you experience in life, find a way to reverse your fear and make it an asset. February just happens to be my most challenging month. You may have more than one month. You may have only a single day or holiday. But whatever the time period is, learn to face it with courage. Because although we think that no one is watching us, we are role models more often than we know. How you deal with your challenges can help someone else deal with theirs. Keep living and keep loving.

Men Of Color Motivational Group Inc.

1150 Griswold, Ste. 1700 • Detroit, MI 48226 • 313-964-4601



MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

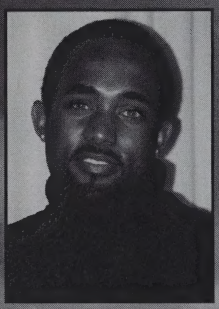
Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.

Door "655"

by Queshan Hayes

Part VIII



It is the month of love and I welcome you all to another episode of Door 655. Last month you found out that this Tony, Wes, or whoever he chooses to be, was indeed William's uncle. Can William's life get any more twisted? Anyway, Craig had just finished 'having' Tony a few hours before William saw him leaving the apartment. The story continues here, where William has just disclosed to Craig that the man leaving his apartment was his uncle. He leaves Craig on the phone with a dial tone....

Craig's ear was glued to the phone. Although he knew William had hung up, he could not let go of the receiver. Had he heard him correctly? Did he just say that Tony was his uncle? Wait a minute. Tony was his name, not Wes. When this crossed his mind, he was able to hang the phone up. He stood up and began to pace his apartment rubbing his temples. This was too much for him. He needed to get out. Craig yanked open all of his drawers and pulled out some fleece pants and an old college sweatshirt. Where he was going, he didn't know, he just knew he needed some air. He laced his boots and grabbed his keys. He slammed his door as he left.

******

William, sitting in a state of anger, guilt, and fear heard what he knew was Craig's door slamming. "Oh, no...Oh shit, I know he ain't coming down here to start no shit. I can't look at him right now," William said as he got up to go to his door to wait for Craig's knock. One minute passed. Two passed. There was no knocking on his door. Suddenly, he heard an engine turning. He then made his way to the kitchen window where he saw headlights casting shadows into his apartment. As he looked through his blinds, he saw Craig's tail lights and heard his tires screeching as he left the parking lot like a bat out of hell.

"Oh shit...That nigga better not be headed to see my uncle!" William said to himself as he ran to put on some clothes. He rushed into his room and jumped into the first pair of pants and shirt he saw. In a matter of minutes, he was sitting in his black Navigator and leaving the complex. He made his way around each curve until he was at the gate.

"Damn...where did he go?" Craig's car was no where in sight. The gate must have been open already, because William's lights were the only ones in the area. There were two ways to go and William chose the route that Craig didn't take. He realized this as he traveled and did not see Craig's car.

"He must have took the other way....Shit, It doesn't matter, I will still beat him there, going this way," he said as he hung a right at the end of the street.

*****

Craig's heart raced as he listened to Brandy's "Never Say Never." He had no clue where he was going. Tree's were a blur as he sped down the desolate back road. He could not believe where this fan-

By Queshan Hayes - Staff

tasy was taking him. All he wanted to do was get one little taste of William. He never knew that he had to unleash skeletons, monsters, and devils from the closet to experience this fantasy.

"It's not worth it! It's just not worth it, Lord," he said to himself. "What am I doing wrong? What in the hell am I doing wrong?!" He could not believe that he was yelling this at the top of his lungs in his car. When he realized that he was yelling, he began to laugh at himself. "Craig, come on, man, what are you doing to yourself? Just leave William the fuck alone, and leave Tony or Wes, or whatever his name might be, alone, too. It's just that simple," he told himself. This seemed to calm him down just a little. He slowed down as Brandy told him that almost doesn't count. "You are right, Brandy, almost doesn't count. It's all or nothing....All or nothing."

******

"Damn, where is he," William asked himself as he pulled onto the street just a few houses down from his uncle's. The street was quiet and dark. He did not see Craig's car. He did, however, see his uncle's car and another car right behind it, that he did not recognize. William hated coming on this side of town every since his mother told him that his uncle Wes was moving in the area. Just as he was about to pull away, headlights appeared in the distance. "Maybe that's him," William thought to himself. He sat and waited as the car got closer and closer. It wasn't Craig, but it slowed down as it approached his uncle Wes' house. The car parked on the side street opposite the house. Three of the four doors of the car opened. Out emerged three tall, muscular men. They all had some type of container in their hands that apparently carried alcohol. They all stumbled and laughed as they held on to each other trying to maintain their balance. They finally made their way to the door. It was strange. All of the lights were off in the house, but some type of lighting was dimly lighting each room, William noticed as he glanced at each window facing the street. The group stood in front of the door for a minute or two. Finally, someone answered the door. He looked like he could have been his uncle Wes, but it was too dark to be sure. The three men stood at the door talking to the guy who opened the door. They laughed and joked for a minute or two more, then they all reached into their pockets. William was confused as each man handed the 'door man' something from their pockets. Soon, the group entered and closed the door behind them. What was going on? William decided to wait a little longer. He would not let Craig cause any more drama than what had already brewed. As he waited, he began to dose off. He had been there sleeping for about forty five minutes and didn't notice the car pulling up behind him. Out emerged an intoxicated man that was obviously in his early forties, but had a body of a race horse. He stumbled past William's truck and noticed this beautiful man sleeping. William was awakened by someone knocking on his window.

"Hey.....Hey...You comin' in to the party?" asked the strange man.

"Um....yeah....yeah, I was just waitin' for my boy to show up," lied William.

"You must have been waitin a long time, man. You was knocked out. Come on in with me, man. I don't think your boy is gonna show up." William looked at the man and then towards his uncle's house. He thought for a minute and finally pulled his keys from the ignition as he prepared to get out.

"Aite, man, but who's party is this?"

"Shit, Hell if I know," laughed the man. "I heard about it from some friend's of mine. I think the guy's name is Tony. He has these parties every month."

"Is there a charge or something?"

"Don't worry about it, man. I got you," the guy said as he reached out to shake William's hand. The two men walked toward the house. William looked over his shoulders to see if Craig was anywhere in sight. Soon, they were at the door. William could hear some music. Now, close enough to the house to see, he noticed that it was lit by candle light. The guy knocked on the door. For a minute or two, no one showed up. Then, the door slowly began to open. A slim, model looking guy stuck his head out of the door. He looked the guy up and down. Then he looked William up and down.

"Aite, aite, looks good. Y'all tight....Ten bones a piece," he said as he reached out his hand. The guy pulled out a twenty and handed it to the guy. He then stood aside and opened the door all the way. William was confused. He saw bags full of clothes, towels, and heard strange noises in between the beats of the music. Then, he saw some dude walk by in a towel and some tennis shoes. Although he was confused, he was torn. He just couldn't walk away. He began to walk deeper into the house. He was in such a trance, that he did not hear the guy telling him that he needed to leave his clothes in a bag on the couch. In one swift step, he soon realized he was in over his head. In the one room he decided to walk in, the scene was too much. Trying to catch his breath, he looked to the left—SEX! He looked to the right—SEX! On the floor—SEX! On one of the make-shift beds—SEX! Not men and women, but MEN!! Men were sucking each other's dicks. They were sticking their fingers in other men's asses. And two men were actually having intercourse. One guy was really fucking another guy in the ass!

Door Continued On Page 58

Door Continued From Page 57

William immediately broke out! He turned for the door and pushed one guy down as he raced to the door. In seconds, he was gone.

"Who in the hell was that?" asked Wes as he emerged from the kitchen in a towel. He then went to his window and saw a Navigator screeching down his street. He just stared out of the window for a minute or two, then went back into one of the rooms.

****

"Oh shit, Oh shit, oh shit!!! What in the fuck was that? What in the fuck is goin on?!!!!" William yelled as he floored it down the back roads of the neighborhood. He couldn't believe what he had just witnessed. Men, yes men were having sex at his uncle's house. It was some type of orgy. He just couldn't believe it. The images of the men could not leave his head. He finally made it back to his apartment, and decided to call it a night. He parked his truck and made his way to his door. He just shook his head and said to himself, "Man! What a fucking night." But it was just the beginning. Because, there at his front door, sat an intoxicated, teary eyed Craig. William froze.

"I need you William," cried Craig. "I need you William. I don't know what the fuck to do, William. I need you, man." William stood there for a minute or two.

"Get up, Craig," he said as he reached out his hand. Craig took his hand and clumsily stood on his feet. He wrapped his arms around William and cried into his shoulders. William reached into his pockets and pulled out his keys. As he held Craig with one hand, he unlocked his door with the other hand.

"Come on, man," William said as he led Craig into his apartment. Craig continued mumbling something. William just held on to him tightly as he led him deeper into the apartment. He closed the door behind them. He closed door 655. He turned the lock and made sure the door was closed this time. He held Craig in an embrace, "I need you, too Craig. I need you, too."...

STAY TUNED TO
NEXT MONTH....

poetry time

POWER FAILURE
by Alan Sharp

You search
for the switch that
turns me on

transforms me
into a molten,
yearning, yielding
mass of ebony
muscle.

You search for the switch
that turns me
on

your fingertips
ignite electricity, tingle
my nipples
trail shivers along my spine
tickle my ribcage
tease
me to erection

Cup my testicles, clasp
my sex
stroke my strength and
trace my sizzling
tears.

You search
for the switch
that turns me on,

travel my anatomy
blind
and random as
lightning

Not once realizing that
what you seek
remains deep
inside my heart...

the one spot
you never
explore

PRIORITIES . . .
by Alan Sharp

Our princes
seem
to die in vain,
apart
from us
in lonely pain.

Where are we
when they
need
us most?

Ensconced
in some abstract domain...
perusing thoughts
affixed
upon
kaleidoscopic Babylon, whose

aberrant proclivities
demonic activities
& macabre festivities

distract us
with great expertise from
clandestine infections
that
divest us
of our
own.

As our minuscule clamors wane,
hallucinogenic glamours
reign

But still
the sober facts remain . . .

Our princes
seem to
die
in vain.

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"NEGRO SO PRETTY"

by "Doc" Hoskins Jr.

Negro so pretty
re you blind in the mind?,
ignorant of the tongue?,
and foolish in the ear?

Can't you see the naps
for the conk?
Do you not feel the pull of your
land beckoning you back?
Have you moralized the intruder's
ways that enslaved you so in
Body and Mind?

Can't you see the nat-chu-ral
love in yourself for what it is?
Can you not heed the crys of
your ancestors
and make amends for those
to come?

Negro so pretty
Don't be so petty
Change your ways and get
the masses ready

Negro so pretty
you think you are so fine
Grinin' at yo' self in the mirror
damn near all the time.

You can't face yo'self
when you come out the
Jungle mines.
Rush to the porcelain walls to
cleanse your
skin full of dirt, grit & grime.

Got a new hairstyle too
a box fade or braids just simply won't do.

Your mirror betrays you
it is not your reflection you
see
Creating a facade over your
sins,
so you'll never be free.

Negro so pretty
Got yo'self a glass of wine.
Drinking cares away,
wastin' mo' time.

What should you care since
your right on the line.
The day is coming and you've
missed all the signs.

A Negro so Pretty
And so unaware
Let the people rise without you
as you
stop . . .
look . . .
listen . . .
& stare . . .

ONLY GOD CAN JUDGE ME

by Damian Price

I've never killed anyone,
But to them it's the ultimate sin.
Cause I love him,
And I'm a man.
Even though I've never hurt a child,
Or touched one in a dirty way.
They say I'm crazy,
They say I'm not okay.

I'm not the preacher in the church,
Sleepin with the deacon's wife.
Tellin you, you're going to hell,
For livin your life.
Nor am I somebody's wife,
Sleepin with you man,
Every chance I get,
Do you understand?

But, they make me feel persecuted like Christ,
For feelin the way I feel.
But, I guess we all have a cross,
To bear up some hill.
And then they look at me strange,
When I tell them what the good book say,
They can't judge me,
Lest they livin the righteous way.

Only God can judge me,
I only have to pass his test.
So, I'm doing what I can,
And giving him my best.
Only he made me,
And knows how I feel this way.
Why I've had these feelings,
Since my younger days.

So, I only answer to him,
And press on my little way.
Cause he's the light that brightens up,
My every day.
So, don't let them tell you,
Who, how or what you should love.
Cause you can only answer to one,
And he's the only judge.

EVERYBODY KNOWS

by Simone Cunningham

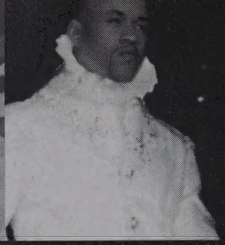
everybody knows
that i'd die for you
lie for you
live on top of you
cause i'm sprung
and i come
at the mere through
of gettin' some
of your love

everybody knows
you're my one temptation
my inspiration, for masturbation
girl,
you're such a beautiful creation
it's true boo, it's all about you
no diggity, no doubt
check it out...
i'd walk a million miles
to see your face
run your bath water
bathe you
then fix your plate
it's real, how i feel
no diggity, no doubt
check me out...
everything you desire
the sky's the limit
if i don't have it, can't afford it, fuck it
for you, i'd steal it
cuz this love inside me has overflowed
and everybody knows

that i breathe for you
dream of you
night and day
anticipating the words you may say
yet my fear of rejection and humiliation
intensify my stimulations

my friends say i'm foolish
for my persistence
but i don't think so
i simply love you from head to toe
through you continue to disregard my flow
everybody knows
everybody knows
everybody knows
but you...

Contestant: Blade Munroe from Jackson, Ms.



Former Mr. Black Universe and 2nd Alt. Mr. Monte St. James from Atlanta, Ga.

Washington DC's talented comedian and Miss Clikque 4th alternate Miss Maxine Blue

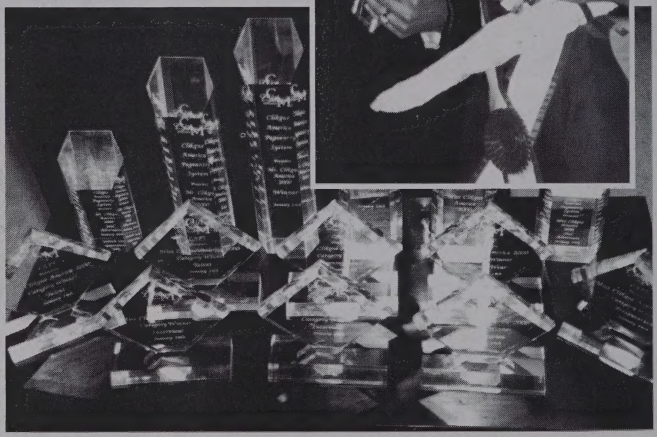
Miss Clikque Atlanta, the legendary Miss Paula Sin Clair. 3rd Alternate

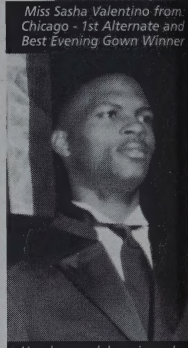
Clikque Magazine presents the Mr. and Miss. Clikque America 2000 Pageant.

Atlanta was a blazing patriotic flame as 13 contestants gathered to vie for the title of Mr. or Miss. Clikque America 2000. Following in the footsteps of pageant emeriti Mr. Grover Fortenberry and Tamishia Iman these contestants duelled to the end of three grueling days of competition. Wednesday the contestants gathered for instructions and registration followed by private interviews.

Contestants were expected to present themselves as if interviewing for a job; with the attention and exposure that Clikque has

The dominant talents of Mr. Tim Bolhar, Mr. Clikque America 2000





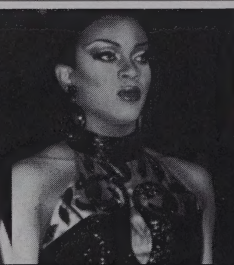
Miss Sasha Valentino from Chicago - 1st Alternate and Best Evening Gown Winner

Handsome, debonair, and intelligent describes 1st aletrnate Damien Kelley

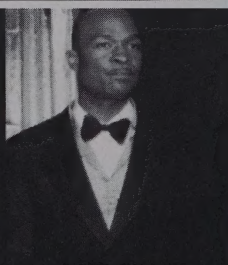
Sexy, inteligent and talented describes our First Miss Clikque Terryl Lynn-Foxx

Best interview winner, the exciting and electrifying Miss Lawanda Jackon

Tenisha Cassadine, Miss Clikque Memphis



The beautiful Milan representing the city of Jackson, Ms.



Singing sensation and 3rd alternate, Stefan representing the city of Atlanta

Miss Clikque Washington DC., Miss Shiquetta Lee

Mr. Clikque America 2000 Results

3rd alt.: Stephan
2nd alt.: Monte St. James
1st alt.: Damien Kelly
Winner: Mr. Tim Bolhar, Chicago

Miss Clikque America 2000 Results

4th alt.: Maxine Blue, Wash. DC
3rd alt.: Paula Sinclair, Atlanta
2nd alt.: LaWanda Jackson, Memphis
1st alt.: Sasha Valentino, Chicago
Winner: Terryl Lynn-Foxx, New Orleans

2000 Lifetime Achievement Recipient: Miss Tina DeVore

CATEGORY WINNERS

Best Interview:	(Ms.) Lawanda Jackson
	(Mr.) Damien Kelly
Best Presentation:	(Ms.) Terryl Lynn-Foxx
	(Mr.) Tim Bolhar
Best Talent:	(Ms.) Paula Sinclair (Tie)
	(Ms.) Terryl Lynn-Foxx
	(Mr.) Tim Bolhar
Best Eveningwear:	(Ms.) Lawanda Jackson
	(Mr.) Tim Bolhar

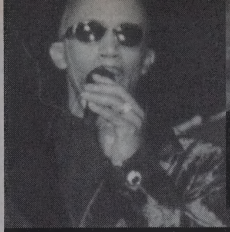
planned for these winners, a job it will be. Following the interview contestants were free to explore the wonders of Hotlanta or to make final preparations, or changes, now that they knew who their competition would be.

Thursday night, the world famous TRAXX nightclub, played host to the pageant as the club was transformed from a techno-hip party place to the showcase of Clikque America's best and brightest stars. Contestants competed in Presentation, Evening/Formal Wear, and Talent while some of the pageant and entertainment world's greatest celebrities entertained the crowd between scenes. At the end of the night the contestants were well aware of what each one had to do, either stay ahead of the crowd or to rise to the top.

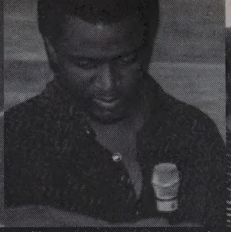
Friday night Clikque Magazine spared no expense as it rolled out the carpet for the community and contestants at one of Atlanta's finest theatres, the Grand Rialto Theatre, owned and run by Georgia State University. Contestants again showed their style and flare in Red, White, and Blue Presentation. Again they dazzled the audience with their best garments and once again they broke out with talents as diverse as their personalities and the cities they represented. Finally the contestants were invited to answer a final question in their last chance to snatch the title of Mr. or Miss. Clikque America 2000.

Videos, pictures, and programs are still available, contact the Clikque offices to order.

Clikque thanks all of the contestants, promoters, judges, and supporters who helped make this year a tremendous success.



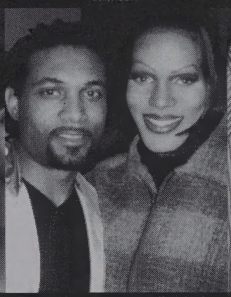
Houston's Grover Fortenberry, Mr. Clikque America 2000 Emeritus



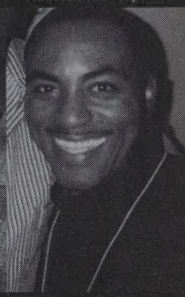
Clikque America 2000 Host and Emcee, the well spoken Mr. Joe Jackson

Miss Tina Devore, Clikque America 2000 Lifetime Achievement Recipient

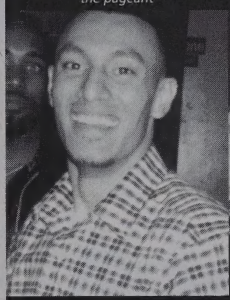
Miss Dominique Rashad, Atlanta's Emcee and entertainer enjoying the pageant



Clikque owner, D. Powell enjoying the pageant with Dorian Kelley, Staff writer and pageant emcee



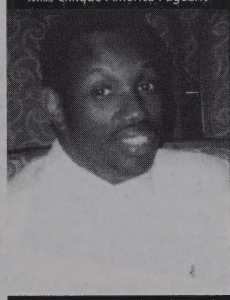
D'Andre, Mr. Black Universe hanging out at Mr. & Miss Clikque America 2000



Clikque business manager Nestor Zapata enjoying the First Mr. & Miss Clikque America Pageant

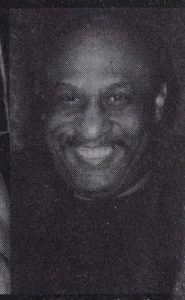
Pageant judge, Princess Brandy congratulating Mr. Clikque America Tim Bolhar

Former Miss Black Universe, Raquel Lord performing in the talents of Tim Bolhar



AESM Director and founder, Rudy Carns taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the pageant.

The one and only, The Hilarious Sophia McIntosh hosting the first ever Mr & Miss Clikque America



AESM Executive, Jim enjoying the pageant with Rudy

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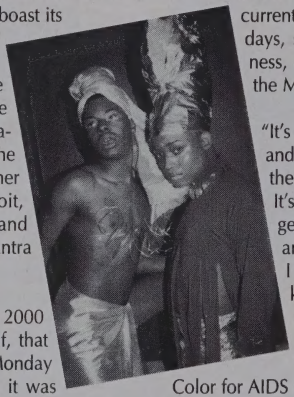
Detroit's House of Bvlgari brings

Fire and Ice to Detroit in 2000

Text and photos by Jason Michael

The opulent House of Bvlgari, some of Detroit's best and brightest, threw a wild weekend of events that while ultimately ended in nonsense (broke up by some lame ass spectators with a lil' too much house pride) still managed to boast its share of spectacular moments.



The weekend began with The Insurrection, an intimate little soiree at the Liberal Arts Gallery that featured fantastic performances from the reigning Ms. Gold Coast, and former Ms. Just-About-Everything-in-Detroit, Diva. Several house members and friends, including Dominique Elantra Bvlgari, turned it out as well.

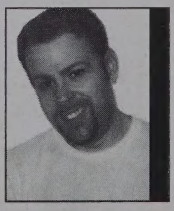
But the main course of Fire and Ice 2000 was The Resurrection, the ball itself, that took place in the wee hours of Monday morning (don't let nobody tell you it was Sunday night) at Heaven's Playground on the East Side. The ball began with a fabulous house parade by Bvlgari who was thrilled to have in its audience members from such legendary houses as Mizrahi, Ultra Omni and Allure. Yes, chile, the children came from as far away as L.A., N.Y.C. and even ATL for this one.

Halfway through the evening's categories, however, Ford and Escada started feuding and ultimately caused the end of the evening. But as you can see from these pictures, Detroit did have it goin' on for a quick minute and could really earn a place on the scene if they set their minds to it.

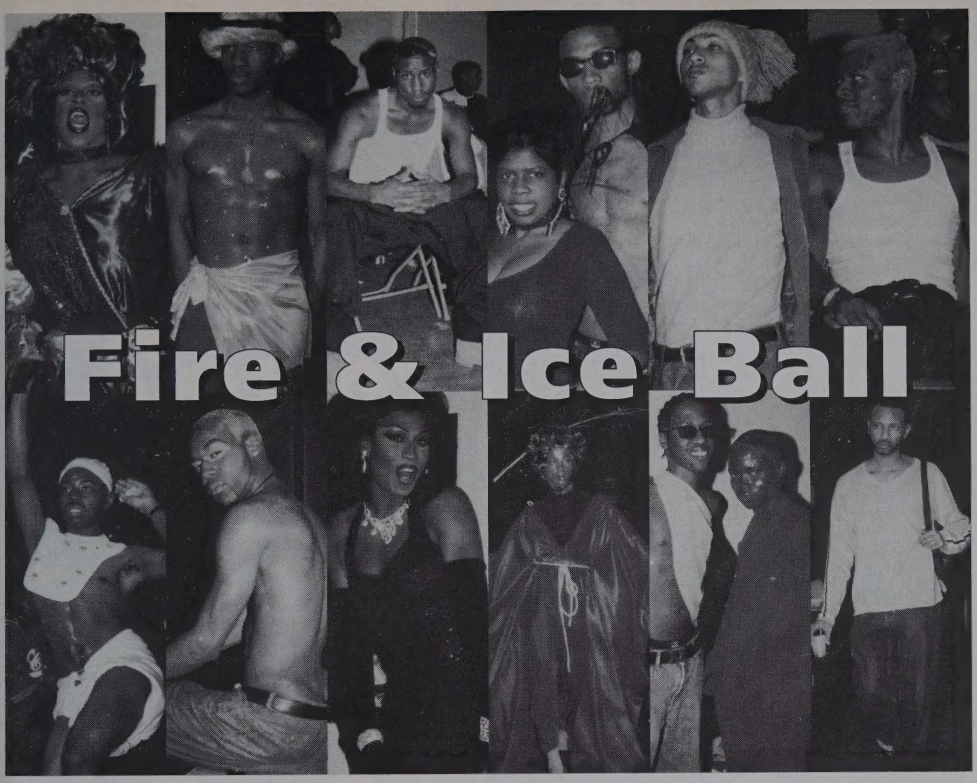
In the meantime, House Mother David Bvlgari, who's currently tearing up the bailrooms in NYC these days, says that while he's upset about the foolishness, he wil] continue to bring a little opulence to the Motor City.

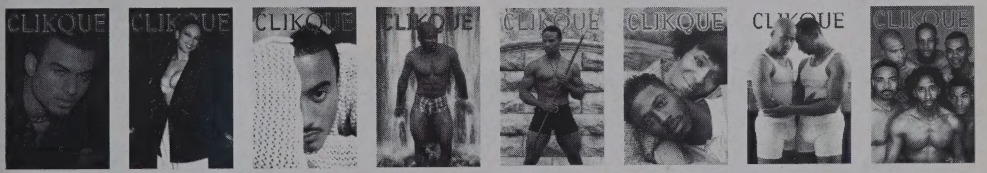
"It's a shame that people don't know how to act and be respectful of other people's parties when they try to do positive things for the community. It's a real shame because there's a lot of intelligent and artistic people who came to show their artistic side and give back to the community. All I can say is that it's their loss," said David. "My kids are in college and have jobs and that's why I encourage my people to go to school and get an education. That's what Bvlgari is about and that's why we work with Men of Color for AIDS prevention and with the youth group."

Don't give up, boo, and keep ya head up. The grown folks recognize and appreciate



written by staff writer
Jason Michael detroit, mi.





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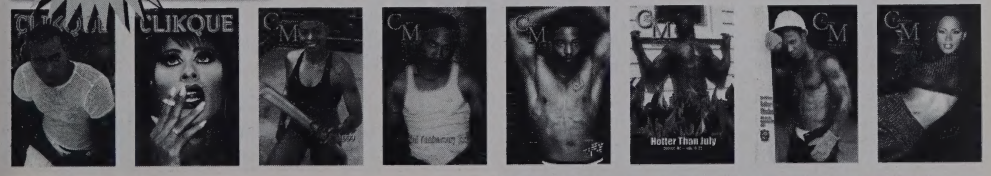

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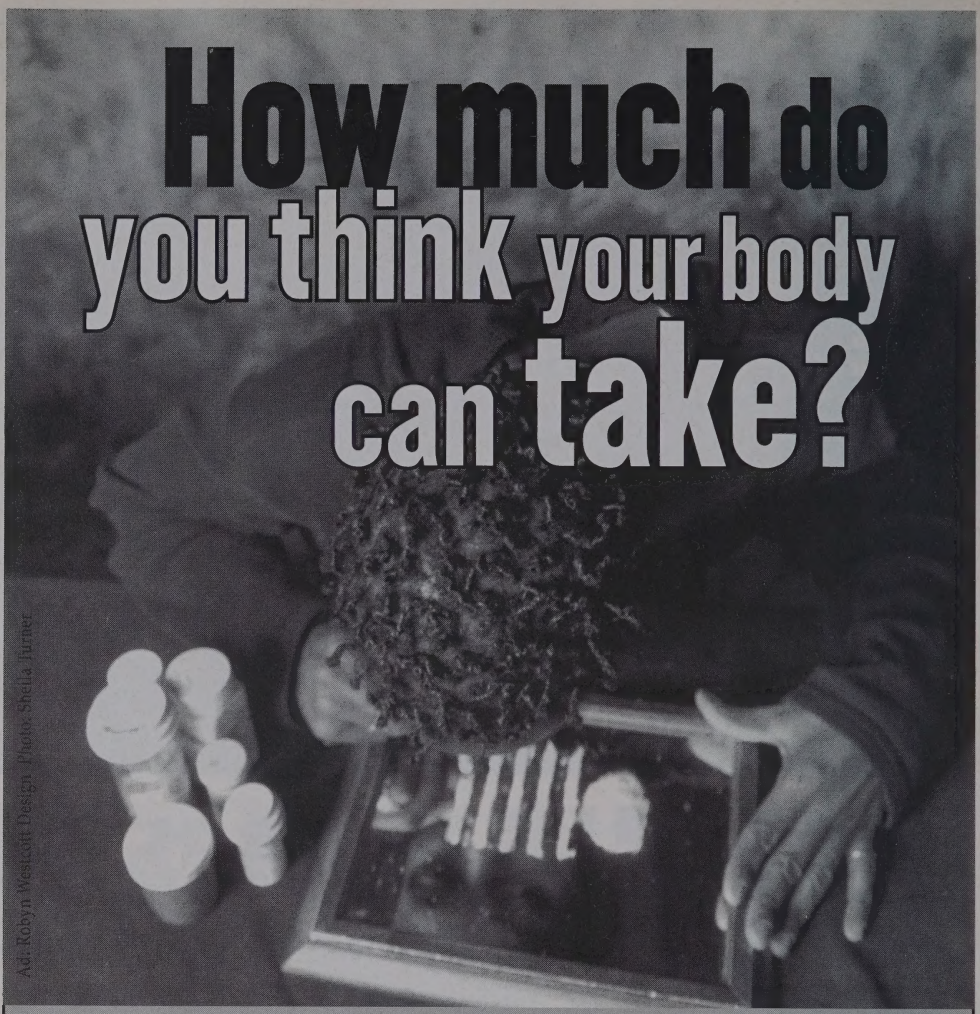

Ad: Robyn Westcott Design Photo: Sheila Turner

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The Age Of Aquarius

By PHARAOH

The ancient Egyptians knew that every 2,000 years the constellation changed. The constellation refers to the configuration of planets in the known solar system. Within the context of astrology, the past 2,000 years are classified as the Age of Pisces. The motto/keyword for Pisces is 'I Believe'. During this period of time, earmarked on the Western calendar with the year 1AD, hundreds of beliefs surfaced and were expressed in the form of religion. Pisces is also known as the martyr of the zodiac. Much suffering and sacrificing took place. According to the Christian doctrine, God gave his only begotten son...(a sacrifice) and the Holy Bible presents the account of how Jesus Christ suffered. In addition, the Atlantic Slave Trade, the Abolitionist Movement, the Civil War, and the Civil Rights Movement count for a few historical events which highlight the suffering of and sacrifices made by people of African descent. Now that the Age of Aquarius is here, what can one look forward to?

The motto/keyword for Aquarius is 'I Know'. It can be expected that new discoveries will be made and facts will be found that will prompt a paradigm shift. For example, it will be similar to when Europeans stopped believing that the world was flat based on facts that were presented to them by Copernicus, an astronomer who theorized that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun. On that same note however, it must be added that Africans knew that the world was round already. They used two clues, which were the sun and the moon. As a result, some of the beliefs, which surfaced in the previous millennium, will be shattered or become a thing of the past and many people will re-tool their consciousness. That is one way of looking at things from the worm's eye view. Now, let us look at things from the bird's eye view with respect to the individual.

Ever wonder where you are in life as opposed to where you should be (expectations)? Each year has a number, and at best it represents the overall energy vibration of the year. For example, the year 1999 adds up to the number 1. (1+9+9+9 = 28; then 2+8 = 10; then 1+0 = 1) The goal is to add up the numbers to get a single digit result. Accordingly, the year 2000 adds up to the number 2, so forth and so on. Each individual has a number for their personal year. It is calculated by adding the numbers of the month, day of birth, and the number of the present year together. For example, the number of the personal year of someone born on May 12th is 9. (5+1+2+1 = 9) The years, which are numbered 1 through 9, do have meanings, and they are as follows:

Year 1 = the beginning of a new direction; usually involves a move with respect to a new relationship, new job/career, or birth of a child
Year 2 = looking at the fine print of the choices made in year one and it is usually very favorable; it is appropriate to discern the pros and cons of the choices made
Year 3 = the early blossoming of the seed-idea

Aquarius Continues On Page 66

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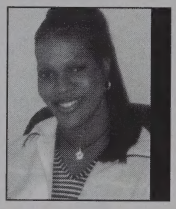
TransForum

Monthly Column For Our Transgendered Community

Hello and Greetings to all you Clikque fans out there. I can't say enough about how pleased I am to be able to have this venue once a month, to be able to share with you. As we move into a new era with Clikque all of our readers should expect great things and some noticeable changes. One of the changes for Transforum is that I've decided to give the readers an opportunity to dialogue with me and give feedback. Readers can join me in this dialogue be sending in correspondences to me at Clikque Magazine either by mail or e-mail. Now, though I cannot guarantee a personal reply to every message, I will however try to answer a few in each issue, in Transforum. Through this I hope to really expand my scope of readers- and expose the community to a greater awareness of trans-issues, concerns, and information.

Well I hope you all had a safe New Year. I don't recall hearing reports of any major mishaps. With all the negative hype going, perpetuated by the media, it's good to know we are still here! Unfortunately that's all the gab I have for you this time around, but before I go I'd like to salute the winners of the first annual Clikque America Pageant, the lovely Terryl Lynn-Foxx of New Orleans and the debonair Tim Bolhar of Chicago. We know you'll represent us well. I'd also like to congratulate the first alternate Sasha Valentino of Chicago and Damien Kelley of Atlanta.

Well as always, take care of yourselves and each other. Until next time.



written by staff writer
Dorian Kelly-Jahman atlanta, ga.

Aquarius Continued From Page 65

planted/started in year one; there is usually more expression and communicating of ideas

Year 4 = attention is paid to the routine(s) that was started in year one; it involves rolling up the sleeves and doing the work; there may be stress concerning work and the value of it; for example, is it overwork or underwork?

Year 5 = one can expect freedom through change; there may be a restless urge to make a shift, but not a complete change per se; there may be an opportunity for one to make an advancement if prepared

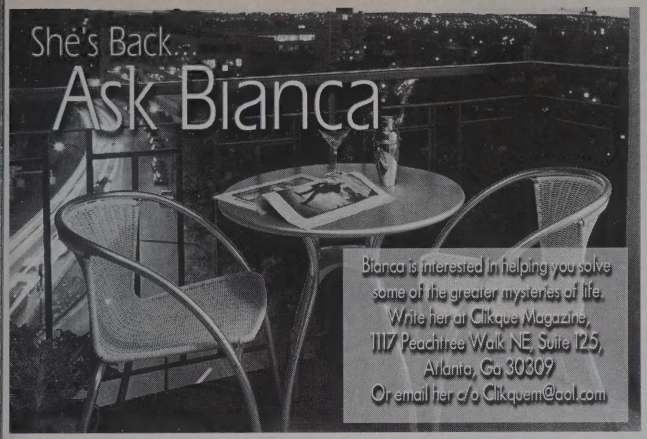
Year 6 = a coming together through unity, community, and partnership; there may be some fluctuation in financial obligation

Year 7 = time of evaluation and assessment; the keyword is 'introspection'; one may tend to feel alone; it is a time best spent for self-reflection and some solitude; one may ask, "How did I arrive at this point?" listen to the inner voice; success is indicated

Year 8 = one may gain authority, promotion, or advancement, but with more responsibility; usually there is economic gain from the work done, but with a high price

Year 9 = concludes the cycle; everything is ebbing in some way; relationships may close, a job may end, and it is not a good time to begin anything new (at least until November).

What is the number of your personal year? Give it a try! In the new millennium, a paradigm shift is in order, a new way of thinking, a new way of doing, and a new way of being. Consciously elevate your understanding of the Universe and be as great as you are. Welcome to the 21st Century!


She's Back...
Ask Bianca
Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine, 1117 Peachtree Walk NE, Suite 125, Atlanta, Ga 30309 Or email her c/o Clikquem@aol.com

Ooooh! I feel loved! I feel loved! I feel loved! I feel loved! I feeeeel loved!
Hello children! I can relate to Donna Summer in so many ways this month, so I thought I would start the column off with a verse from one of her songs. I am so happy! I am doing just fine all by myself. A lot of you should try this out instead of sticking with these fly by night relationships. Honey I am being very picky! Why? Let me give you three good reasons:

1. I'm cute enough to do it.
2. Why settle for mess when I am so happy with myself.
3. I'm not the take me out to dinner so we can *#!! type. I'm the look but don't touch type.

If you are fierce enough to follow my philosophy, please do so. If not, well do what you must. Ugly people need love too, I guess! Anyway lets get started. I have a sad bunch this month, but I am here to help.

Dear Bianca,
I have been in a relationship for over six months. My lover is getting ready to be relocated to New York by his job. I am a full time student and I have depended on him financially for some time. I am terrified of how I am going to survive when he leaves. Should I drop out of school for a while to move with him or what? He is pressuring me to do this, but I'm just not sure.
Down & Out- Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Miss Co-Dependency,
You must attend " We Will Accept Anyone University"! Why in the ##!* would you even consider dropping out of school for a date that might drop you upon arrival to this new city, full of independent people unlike yourself. You should never be so dependent on another person to the point of no return. Get yourself together for your own good and the good of your relationship. Please stay in school ! Take out a loan, get a second job, hell in your case get A job! Your only concern should be dealing with a long distance relationship. I can't tell you how to deal with that, but honey, those are what I call "What You Don't Know Wont Hurt You " type of relationships. If you can deal with that along with maintaining your sanity after he leaves, then I wish you the best. Use your head and stop thinking so much about his.
Good Luck!
Bianca

Dear Bianca,
Valentine's Day is approaching and I am single for the first time in years. The holidays were really hard for me, along with bringing in the new year alone. I just can't get over my last relationship. I feel empty and I really don't feel as attractive as I used to.
Broken Hearted- New Orleans, LA.

Dear Toni Braxton,
Girl where have you been? You have been holding your breath for too long now! Get over it! I know this is a lot easier to say than do, but you have no other choice. Take it from me, the only constant you need in your life is GOD! I'm not saying that you have to run out and join a church, but church is the perfect outlet to help you through this time. Establish a close relationship with your GOD and all of this loneliness you feel will quickly dissipate. To touch on your attractiveness. However you feel on the inside is what you put out. If you feel ugly, then most likely you are. Change your way of thinking and everything else will follow.
Peace and Blessings!
Bianca

Dear Bianca,
I want to let you know that I am happy that you are back. I missed seeing this column in the magazine. My love life at this time is not very active at all. I am single and dating different guys, but no one has struck a cord in me, especially sexually. I'm starting to wonder if I am the problem. Since my last serious relationship, I have held up my defenses to protect myself. These defenses tend to turn my prospects away and dissapoint me in the long run. I want to let someone in because I have been feeling so lonely lately, but I would rather not deal with the pain that I have dealt with in the past. How do I get out of this funk?
Alone-Memphis,TN.

Dear Hard To Get,

Write Bianca Today!

I applaud you for thinking about yourself enough to protect yourself from the *!#@ that is out there. No one wants to subject themself to pain unless their into that type of thing. Your actions are not at all unusual. Whenever you sense that a relationship is going no where, it doesn't make sense to continue trying to make it work. It is a waste of time and it will come to an end eventually anyway. Open yourself up to people a little more, but still be very aware of what has happened in the past to prevent it from happening again. In the meantime, focus on other things in your life like your career, friends and family. The love that you want will find you. Stop looking and go with the flow of life. Continue to date and learn more about your strengths and weaknesses through interacting with these prospects. Take it in stride!
Bianca

THE CLIKQUE by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER©1999
OH, GAR-SON!!!?? CAN WE GET SOM' MO' SHA-BLEE??!!
TAKE IT EASY, VICTORIA! THAT STUFF AINT CHEAP!
WE'RE HERE TO CELEBRATE ONE YEAR OF A FABULOUS FRIEND-SHIP! WE'RE WORTH IT!
SHE'S RIGHT! WE SHOULD EAT, DRINK AND BE 'GAY!'
THAT'S RIGHT, XAVIER! OH! UM...SCUZE ME, I HAVE TO GO TO THE POWDER ROOM!
FUNNY, HOW VICTORY ALWAYS HAS TO GO TO THE POWDER ROOM WHEN THE CHECK COMES...!

Labor of Love Continued From Page 23

were not about to give any of that money nor any of that power," says Carl.

"I looked at every category of funding through Title 1 monies. When I saw that there were no funds being awarded to food banks I applied for monies in 1993 to operate a food bank to serve 50 people. We were awarded $37,000 for a food bank and care item program. Then we couldn't get the grant money, because we did not have insurance nor did I have the money to purchase insurance. When I found out how much the insurance would cost, I went to a bi-sexual black minister for help and he gave me the $1500.00 we needed. I had to do a little flirting, but that's OK. Then we could get the grant award."

However, the drama was not over yet, as Carl quickly pointed out, "it was a reimbursement award- which meant you had to send the money in order to get reimbursed and we had no more money. So I took the award letter to Barnett Bank and they had a Black manager and I spoke with her and showed her the award letter and they gave me a $25,000 line of credit (after a series of negotiations)."

The major barrier POC faced was Black people being afraid and refusing to address AIDS/HIV. "It was not part of the Black agenda," Carl states with angst and disbelief, "we're talking 1990- the early 90s. We had to deal with racism from the white gay community and homophobia from the black community and we had to face the fears and barriers and break them down one brick at a time." He goes on to say, "we've been doing this for over 10 years. It is difficult sometimes to leave my job because when I go home there are people sitting on my doorstep needing help. I have housed people at my home, fed them, paid for stuff for them... a lot of my money goes right back into the community and the organization."

Carl chuckles and relives a moment that brings him a great sense of pride, "a couple of years ago a guy came to me and said we had saved his life- he had no money, no where to stay, and did not know how he was going to make it and he was newly diagnosed and we got him money, food, and a place to stay...now he is doing exceptionally well... he is flourishing- very very prosperous...he is working and is a joy to be around." Carl states that there are many stories like that. "When you see the kids during the holiday's and we know that some of them will not live to the next holiday- but we make sure they have the best Christmas, Easter, and birthdays that we could possible give to them and to see their faces and their joy is incredible."

Carl tells us that the universe keeps him going. He has been given the gift of communication and so he uses this gift to help other people as a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. "I think I have become a role model for other Black gay men, I think I am well respected in our community. Other black gay men see that and it lets them know that they too can be gay and a part of the total community. I live in the ghetto, I work in, love, and am respected in the ghetto. Everybody knows that I am gay... I am never dis-respected", Carl concludes.

Clikque appreciates the time that these and others have given in recounting some of their stories. We wanted to know not just the history of the organization but the personal stories of those who do this work daily; so that you, the community can know and appreciate the real people behind their image. Throughout the country every time we hear the 'truth behind the truth' and are not only moved, but compelled to do more and criticize less.

All too often we allow personal "stuff" to interfere with the real reason for the work. It is up to US, regardless of race, gender sexual identification/ expression, or any other "thing" used to separate us, we are all in this together. If what we learn anything from these interviewees we must learn to put aside our differences (most often petty) and recognize that the diversity of our influence and power will forge a changed society.

Thank you all, the countless people out there, who have given of yourselves for so long, for so many, for so little, and with very little except the precious convictions of your hearts and spirits.

This article is dedicated to the memory of Greg Hutchings, a Washington D.C, AIDS and community activist who died January 2000; and to all those we know and do not know who have died due to HIV/AIDS. You are loved and will be missed.

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Clikque Connection — Men Seeking Men

Florida

COOL SOUTH AFRICAN BROTHER BM, 32, 5'6", brown-skinned, hairy chest, looking to meet a very attractive top Guys, 23+, to hook up with. (Miami) ☎17779

BE MY GIRL 27-year-old BM, looking for TV/TS, who want to have a good time with me. Give me a call. (Jacksonville) ☎19173

ROCK N' ROLL 21-year-old Male 5'6", 135 lbs., long dark hair, some piercings, enjoys rock 'n' roll and country music. Seeking sexy Man 20-24. (Miami) ☎13975

Georgia

BORN IN ROME Andre is 5'4", 115-125 lbs., brown/brown, caramel complexion, Pisces, bottom. Seeking BM, tall, muscular build, bald head, for serious relationship. ☎13166

STRONG MEN ONLY BPM 44, 6'2", 195 lbs., HWP, HIV+, healthy, slim build, private, enjoys animals, the outdoors, life. Seeking strong Male 30-45, HWP, slim. (Atlanta) ☎12706

GET BACK TO ME Bottom Male, 5'10", 230 lbs., light-skinned, light brown eyes. Seeking well-endowed, top Male. (Atlanta) ☎11747

LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME? Tre is a 6'1", 225 lbs., brown-skinned, medium build, enjoys movies, cooking, shopping. Seeking Male with similar interests, for good times. (Atlanta) ☎11725

LET'S HOOK UP Kamar is a 25-year-old African-American Male, 5'3", 130 lbs., medium build, brown-skinned, enjoys singing, dancing, the arts, cooking, traveling, meeting people. Seeking Male with similar interests, for good times. No games please. (Albany) ☎11360

SEXY CHOCOLATE Chocolate is a 27-year-old African-American Male, 5'8", 153 lbs., 29" waist, short wavy black/brown, thin mustache, goatee, chocolate complexion, attractive, sexy. If this sounds good, leave a message. (Atlanta) ☎11205

IF YOU'RE THAT ONE Baby T. is a 28-year-old Male, 6'1". Seeking an honest Male, for possible long-term relationship. (Atlanta) ☎10793

SOMEONE OUT THERE? Cory is a BM, 5'9", 150 lbs., employed, educated, very attractive. Seeking muscular, masculine, attractive Male for friendship, possible relationship. (Marietta) ☎16449

IS THIS YOU? Jay would like to meet an outgoing, sensitive, honest SM, who wants to have alot of fun. (Atlanta) ☎21956

LOW-KEY GUY Good-looking, in shape, 38-year-old GWM, 5'9", 165 lbs., stable, n/drugs, varied interests. Seeking SM for dating, possible relationship. (Atlanta) ☎21781

SEEKING SIMILAR BM Very masculine BM, 5'7", 150 lbs, attractive, muscular and looking for a muscular, masculine BM, for friendship and possibly more. (Atlanta) ☎21586

MUST BE DISCREET Looking for a straight-acting brother for friendship and possible relationship. If you're down with that, leave me a message. Peace. (Atlanta)☎20181

I'M ALL THAT Very romantic BM, 5'7", medium brown, likes movies, hiking and walks in the park. Looking for a BM, 18-30, to hook up with. No fats and no femmes. (Atlanta) ☎17447

HONEST, OUTGOING AND FUN 31-year-old WM, 6'1", 170 lbs, brown/blue-green, looking for Guys ,18-35, for friendship and possible relationship. (Waterboro) ☎14730

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP Looking for a nice, fun-loving Guy who loves dining out, movies and long walks. If this is you, give me a call. (Decatur) ☎13272

NO GAME PLAYERS Married, down-to-earth BM, 5'10", slim, D/D free. Seeking nice, outgoing BM, 26-35, no games. (Atlanta) ☎19884

I'LL BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND 29-year-old, passable BCD, 5'9", 160 lbs, pecan-tanned, clean, discreet, ISO a secure Gentleman who knows what he wants and who has a sensitive side. (Savannah) ☎18756

COOL BROTHER BM, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown-skinned, fade, mustache and smooth body. Only real Guys apply. The rest of you can get back. (Atlanta) ☎16834

MUST BE DISCREET Muscular, shaved WM, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/blue, looking for a masculine, good-looking, dominant BM who knows what he wants out of life. (Atlanta) ☎12068

Illinois

SOUND LIKE YOU? Sincere, down-to-earth, honest, attractive African-American Male, enjoys bowling, shooting pool, walks, talks, music, nights out. Seeking similar Male, for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) ☎14784

CHAMPAGNE AND FRENCH FOOD GWM 63, 6'0", 185 lbs., full head of blonde hair, trim beard, smooth body, nicely built, enjoys staying at home, French food, champagne, vitamins & herbs, felines, San Francisco. Seeking GWM around 40, n/s, for relationship. (Downtown Chicago) ☎8595

HELP ME EXPLORE MY BODY Anthony is a very curious Male. Seeking Male for love and sex. (Chicago) ☎12182

GET BACK WITH ME Ted is 6'2", 275 lbs., employed, open-minded, enjoys music, biking, outdoor activities, quiet times at home. Seeking masculine, honest, easy-going Male, for friendship, possible relationship, with similar interests. (Chicago) ☎12166

NEW TO THIS Mark is a 27-year-old Male, enjoys being spanked, nipples played with, servicing Guys. Seeking hairy Male 30+, with similar interests. ☎11206

I'LL GET BACK WITH YOU Bill is a 45-year-old BPM, 5'3", 158 lbs., athletic, enjoys competitive volleyball, watching pro-basketball, hiking, long distance biking. Seeking an athletic, straight-acting and appearing B/H/AM, 30-50, if this is you, leave a message. (Chicago) ☎11369

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE 37-year-old BPM, 5'11", 172 lbs., shaved head, brown eyes, salt/pepper goatee, active, out-going, enjoys movies. Seeking Male who is fun, for friendship, possible relationship. (Oak Park) ☎17198

NO ONE NIGHTERS 31-year-old, good-looking, in shape, intelligent Guy, HIV+. Seeking bright, fun to be with, good to look at, bottom Guy, 28-35 to date. (Chicago) ☎14293

TOTAL BOTTOM Gene is a 35-year-old BM, 195 lbs., 5'9", tight bottom. Seeking masculine, well-endowed top. (Chicago) ☎13538

KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS Dontae is a good-looking GWM, 21, 5'7", 130 lbs., light brown/blue, great smile, well-educated, enjoys outdoors, clubbing, sex, drinking, smoking. Seeking good-looking, in shape, Male with similar interests. (Round Lake) ☎19278

LET'S BE FRIENDS 36-year-old Black/Mexican Male, 5'7", 155 lbs. Seeking Male friend, 25-40, 150-160 lbs., must have transportation. (Chicago) ☎18282

GOOD LIPS? Steve is a SGWM, 38 seeking lover who's tall, dark and sexy. Must be special and have good lips. (Mount Prospect) ☎13320

Michigan

HIT THIS TIGHT BUTT Hot, young Middle Eastern bottom, 5'10", 160 lbs., 32" waist, black/brown, goatee, dark complexion, swimmer's build. Seeking well-built, muscular, well-endowed, top BM, 6'0", 18-30. (Detroit) ☎11098

YOUNG MAN WANTED Masculine, attractive, dominant BM seeking young Male into a variety of things. (Detroit) ☎11101

SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT? Nice-looking BM, looking for a good-looking BM, 22-42, 5'8"-6', to hang out with and possibly start a relationship. Let's get together and get to know each other. (Detroit) ☎11266

I'LL DO ANYTHING Good-looking BM looking for a hardcore Man who likes to do anything. If you're interested, call me up and we'll get together. (Detroit) ☎19650

New York

NASTY PIG Tony is a 38-year-old, Italian/Greek Male, well-built, hard body, muscular, well-endowed, enjoys fisting, watersports. (New York City) ☎13756

I LIKE LOTS OF THINGS 37-year-old M, really into oral and likes lots of things. Looking for an older Guy, 40-55, who would be interested in getting together with me. (New York) ☎19264

HIT ME BACK Scott is 40-year-old Male 5'5", 130 lbs., brown/blue, mustache, Italian background, cute, hot. Seeking hot, in shape top Male for first-time fisting. (New York City) ☎15819

EVERYWHERE YOU WANT TO BE Very active, good-natured, retired, daddy type, who wants to enjoy the rest of his life with a couple of young Guys. Must be W/H, 20s, 6'+, good-looking, reliable, health conscious, into working out and have six pack abs. (New York) ☎17556

Tennessee

RICHARD IS A 26-year-old Male, 5'8", 180 lbs., dark brown hair, dark tan, medium build, enjoys going out, horse-back riding, the outdoors. Seeking Male with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Memphis) ☎109994

BORING GUY? 26-year-old BM, 5'11", 184 lbs., dredlocks, brown eyes, enjoys cooking, reading, running, cleaning, employed, dogs. If interested, leave a message. (Memphis) ☎21869

LET'S CHILL Sexy, brown-skinned BM, 6'1", 150 lbs. Seeking SM, for friendship, possibly more. (Memphis) ☎10531

JUST FUN 35-year-old WM, brown/blue, tanned, toned and looking to meet a BM, 21-35, in the Memphis area, for a no strings, hot, sexual relationship. (Memphis) ☎21822

Texas

DROP ME A LINE 32-year-old BM. Seeking real Male, for friendship, possible relationship. (Houston) ☎13180

VERY INTELLIGENT 21-year-old BM, 5'6", 185 lbs., brown-skinned, black/brown, enjoys movies, chillin with friends. Seeking out-going, adventuresome Male for friendship. (Houston) ☎22298

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED! Jimmy is 5'11", 225 lbs., brown/blue, muscular, well-built. Seeking a White She-Male, 21-40, good-looking, to be treated like a Lady. (Dallas) ☎21317

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

STRICTLY BI Jimmy is a 35-year-old WM, 6'0", 220 lbs., brown/blue, very handsome and well-built. Seeking Married Male 21-40, for discreet relationship. No gays please. (Dallas) _13415

IT'S ALL GOOD! Brown-skinned GBM, 5'5", 132 lbs, black/hazel, Looking for a romantic top who's not into playing games. (Houston) ☎20803

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STEPPINGOUT

YOUR PREMIERE GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed here.

ATLANTA, GA

BACKSTREET ATLANTA
845 Peachtree Street (Rear Entrance) 404-873-1986. Always Open & Pouring. Membership Required * Membership Available. Hip-Hop Tuesdays w/DJ Biff

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025. One of Atlanta's most happening nightspot. Open seven days a week.

CLUB FUSION
550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR
W. Peachtree & 15th St., 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

THE MARQUETTE LOUNGE
809 Martin Luther King Dr. NW

THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THE SEQUEL
708 Spring Street, 404-874-8125. Open Sundays- Wednesdays

THELMA'S PUMP ROOM
836 Juniper, 404-881-9230. Black on Friday Nights for the Best in Female Impersonation.

TRAXX NIGHTCLUB
306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422
Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays Nights Hip-Hop Dance Floor, House & Classics.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

LATROYS
316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE, NC

300 STONEWALL
300 E. Stonewall (at S. Blvd.), 704-347-4200

CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566

CLEVELAND, OH

DOMINOS
612 Prospect Ave 216-771-9020.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS
2909 Detroit Av., 216-574-2203. Black on Fri. & Saturdays

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

CLUB ENVY 216 N. Crowdus, 214-742-2708.

DENVER, CO

RAVEN 2217 Welton Street, Fridays & Saturdays

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

ZIPPERS
6221 E. Davison, 313-892-8120

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

GREENSBORO, NC

BABYLON 221 S. Elm Street, 336-275-1006.

GREENVILLE, SC

CLUB NEW ATTITUDE
706 W. Washington St., 864-233-1387

HOUSTON, TX

INCOGNITO- THE CLUB
2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS THE NIGHTCLUB
1318 Westheimer, 713-942-CLUB. Mostly Black Thursdays - Sundays from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

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200 N. Mills St., Downtown, 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

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LOS ANGELES, CA

BOYTRADE-EL REY 5525 Wilshire Blvd.

CATCH ONE
4067 W. Pico Blvd., 213-737-1159. Blackest on Saturdays

STUDY
1723 N. Western Ave., 213-464-9551. Watering hole- Black Owned

MEMPHIS, TN

N-COGNITO 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

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COPA NIGHTCLUB
2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

CASABLANCA
Hallendale Beach - Off I-95 954-454-8400. Thurday Night all Black, Male Dancers

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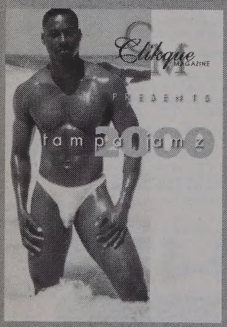
9TH - 11TH
2000



SUGAR'S
17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday

WATERFRONT
36th Street near Airport., Miami, 305-635-5696. Blackest on Tuesdays

NASHVILLE, TN

THE CONNECTION
901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

THE CHUTE COMPLEX
2535 Franklin Road, 615-297-4571 Blackest on Wednesdays

THE GASLITE
167 1/2 8th Ave.,615-254-1278

THE JUNGLE
306 4th Ave. South, 615-256-9411

NEW ORLEANS, LA

OZ
800 Bourbon Street, 504-593-9491. Opens 24-7.

WOLFENDALE'S
834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

NEW YORK, NY

CLIT CLUB
432 W. 14th St., 212-406-1114. Fridays only Women.

CLUB HOUSE
215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays.

CLUB DOWNTIME
251 W. 30th St. (Between 7th & 8th Ave.) 212-591-1622. Friday Nights for Women Only.

ESCUELITA
301 West 39th St. (Corner of 8th Ave.) 212-631-0588. Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

MANHATTAN MONSTER
80 Grove St., New York, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT
1 Front St., Brooklyn, 718-852-0139.

THE WAREHOUSE
141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

NEWARK, NJ

MURPHY'S TAVERN
59 Edison Pl., 973-622-9176.

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT
120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

CABEL'S REEF
2272 Telegraph Ave.,510-451-3777. Black dancing Fridays & Saturdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA, FL

CHERAKEE CLUB
1320 E. 9th Ave. 813-247-9966, Tampa, FL. Blackest Fridays

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

PHOENIX, AZ

INCOGNITO
2424 E. Thomas Rd., 602-955-9805. Blackest Friday & Saturday after hours.

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS
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RUMOURS II
1008 North Blvd.,804-358-3838

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

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THE BOX
628 Divisidaro, 415-647-8258. Multicultural

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177 Townsend St., 415-647-8258. First Friday of Month. Women's Party

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115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

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926 West Tharpe Street, 850-386-2399. Black Nights-Fridays & Saturdays.

WASHINGTON, DC

BACHELOR'S MILL
1104 8th St. S.E., 202-544-1931.Black Men Dancing Thursday thru Saturday.

CLUB DIVERSITE
1526 14th St. N.W., 202-387-2338.

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2009 8th St. NW, 888-594-WISE. Sundays 9pm-Until.

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St. N.E., 202-529-0626. Women on Fridays & Men on Saturdays.

THE EDGE
56 L St. S.E., 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

THE BIG HUNT
1345 Connecticut Ave. NW, Hip-Hop Club Sundays 5-11pm.

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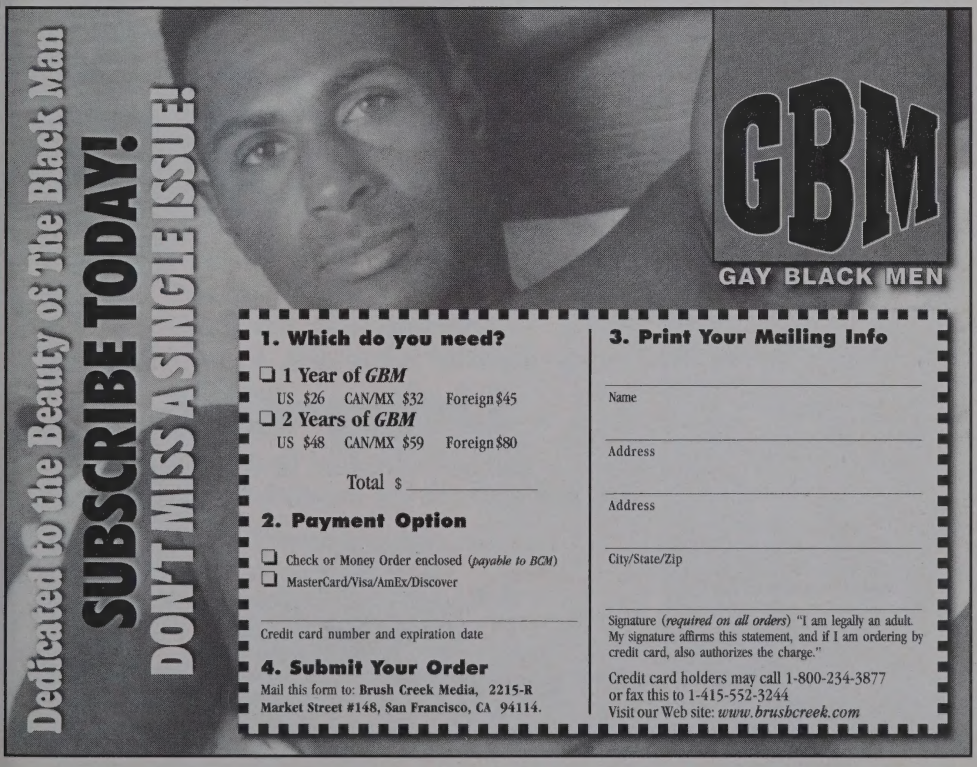

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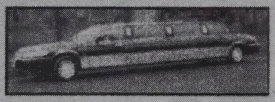
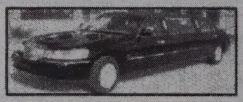

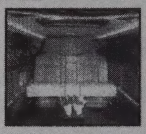

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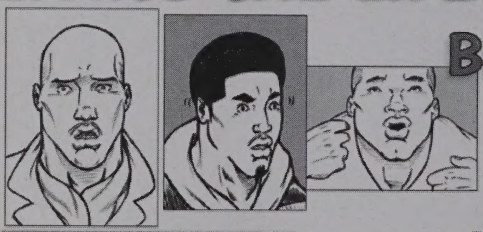
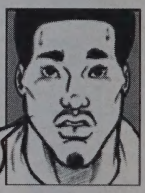
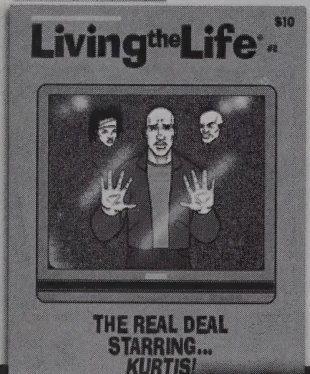


BI-MONTHLY, THAT IS!

Whew!





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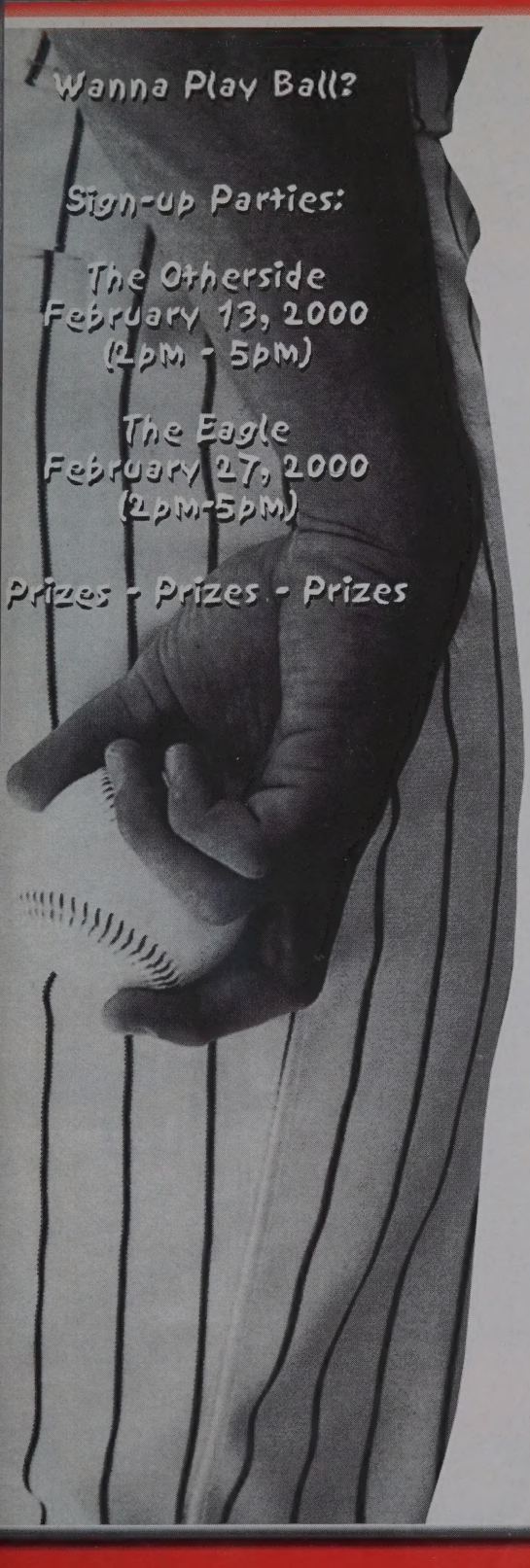

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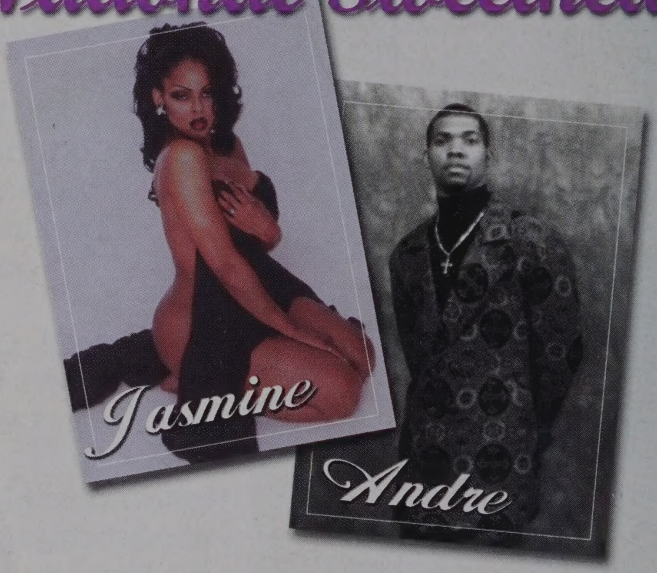

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CATEGORIES

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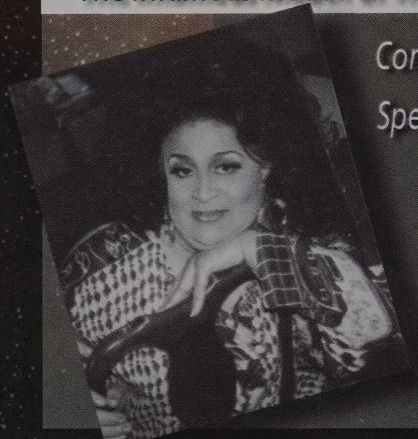

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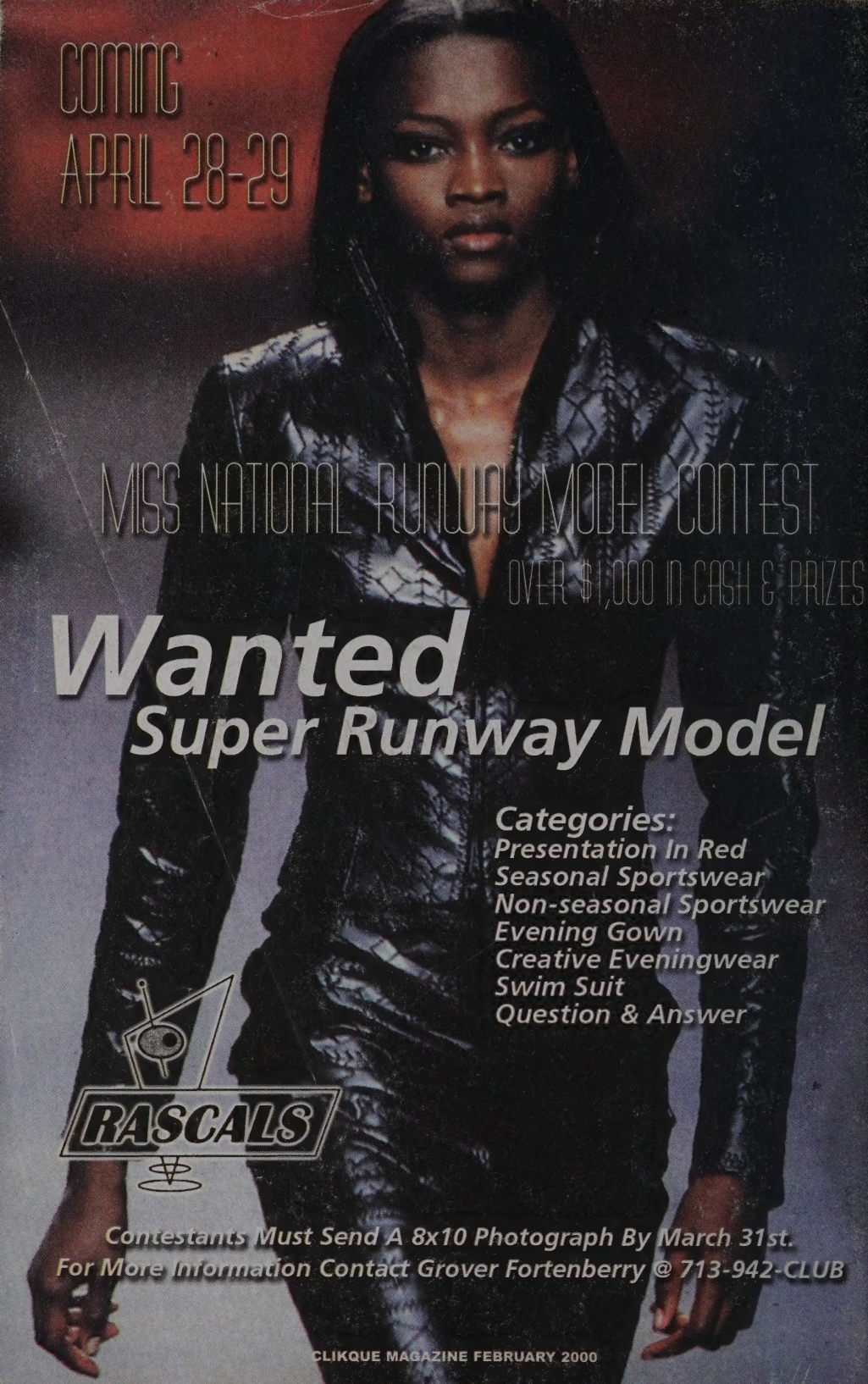
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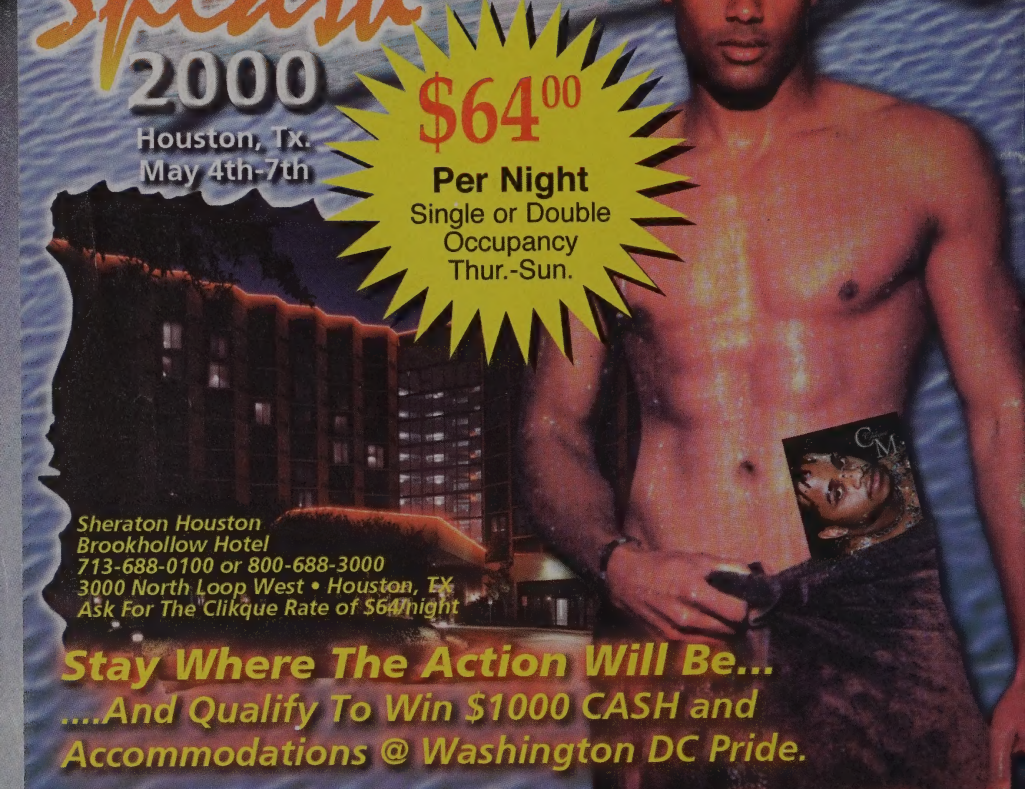

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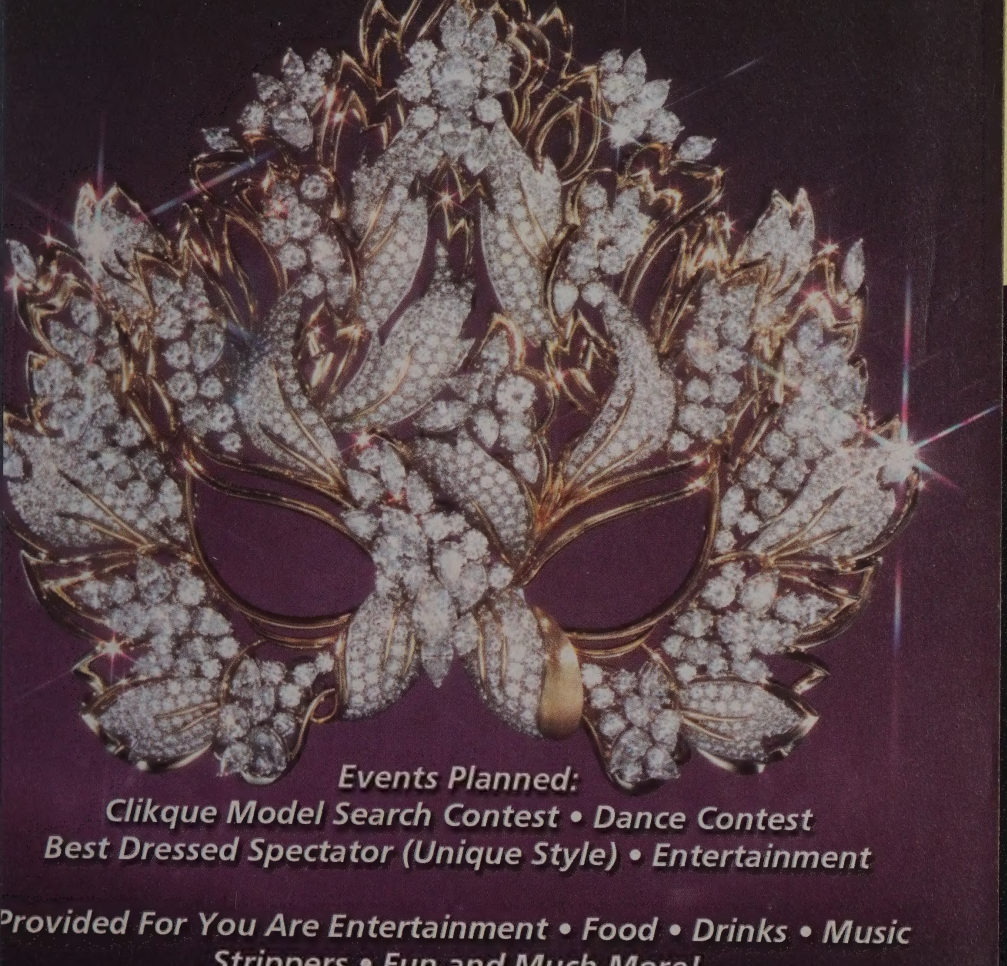

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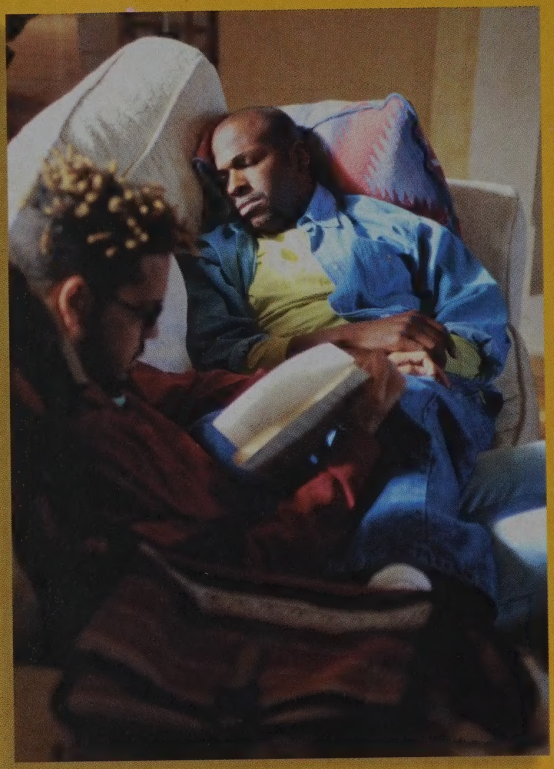

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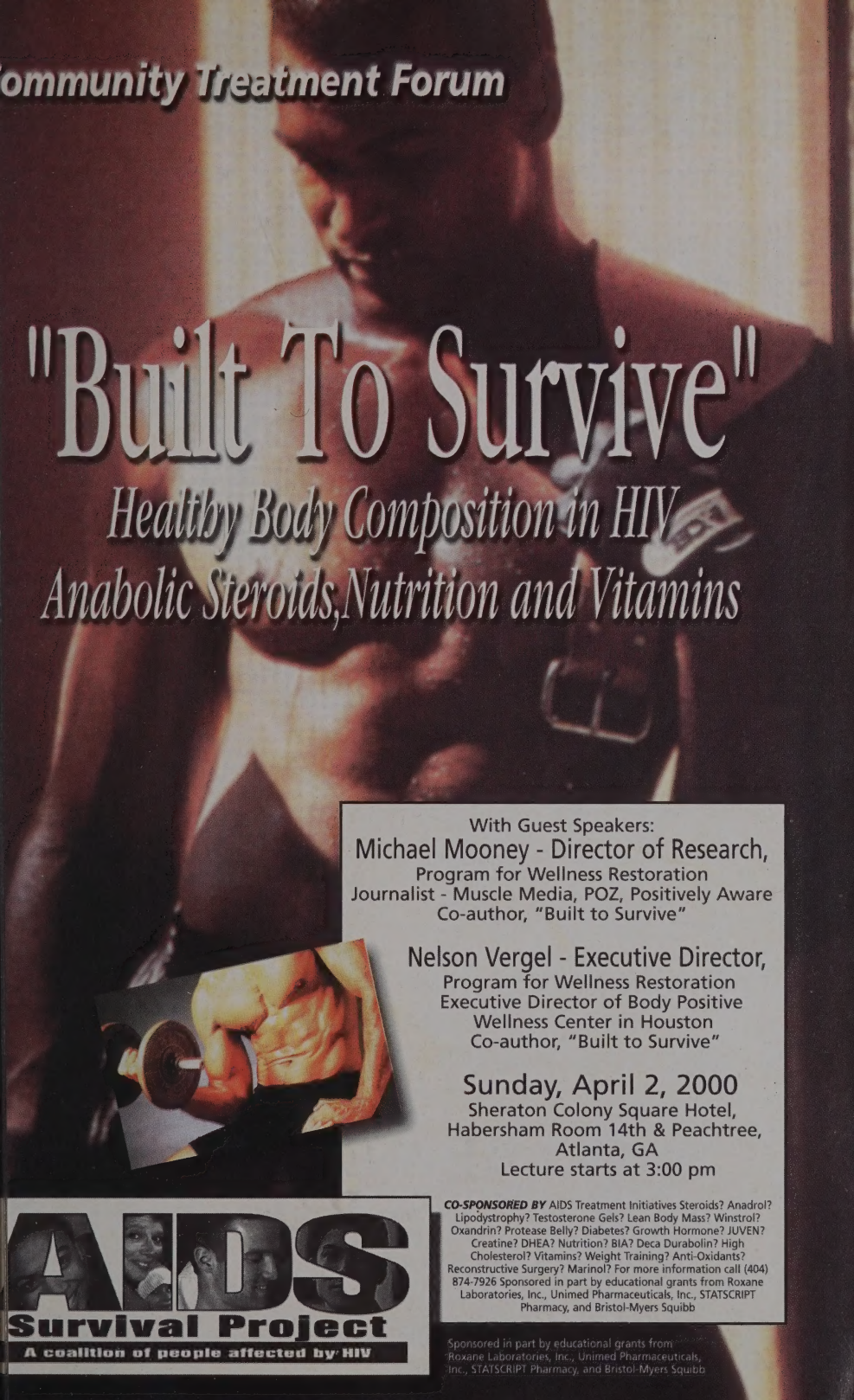

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Nelson Vergel - Executive Director,
Program for Wellness Restoration
Executive Director of Body Positive
Wellness Center in Houston
Co-author, "Built to Survive"

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Press # The 2

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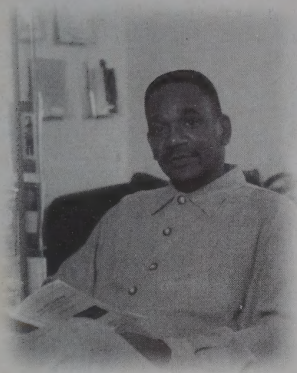
Clikque Magazine

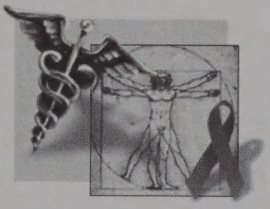
by Don Sneed



Director of Renaissance III, Dallas TX

Dateline: February 24,2000 reporting from the Southwestern Front; Dallas, Texas. The first Black (African American History Month) of the new Millennium is drawing to a close and I think this is a good time for us as African American Eu-men (MIM - men-who-are-intimate-with-other-men) to take a close look at ourselves and our legacy.

HIV/AIDS has, is and will continue to have a devastating impact on our lives for the foreseeable future. As I write this the 2nd National Conference on African Americans and AIDS is taking place in our nation's capitol. I was not able to attend the conference this year but Renaissance III staff members Ursula Traylor and Christopher Newsome are there to give and receive knowledge and expertise so that we may do a better job of helping our brothers and sisters impacted by this viral holocaust: HIV. I want to give kudos to Bristol Myers Squibb - Immunology and John Hopkins University for undertaking this effort to bring people together to address the epidemic in the African American community. Ms. Traylor, the Associate Director of Renaissance III, said that the Rev. Jesse Jackson gave an impassioned and fiery speech to the conference attendees this morning. And if Ms. Traylor says that took place then I must believe that Jesse lit the troops up this day.



Last year and this year millions of dollars are being poured into the African American community to educate about, prevent the spread of and assist our people living with HIV/AIDS. I implore each and every one of you to find out who is doing what with your money and hold them accountable for every penny. Each community has what is called a Ryan White Health Services Planning Council and/or a HIV Prevention Planning group. All you have to do is call your city, county, state or federal elected official and ask them who has been given money to help our people fight HIV/AIDS. They will be more than happy to tell you. If they cannot then please give me a call. They will be more than sad to tell me. Once you find out who is doing what please become involved. Contribute your time, your voice, your sweat, your money, your name, your talents and see the actual manifestation of the African philosophy of "It takes a village". It will take a village of us working together, despite our differences and disagreements, to put an end to this HIV viral holocaust that is threatening to wipe out a generation of Black people in America and has wiped out a substantial portion of a generation of Black people in Africa. This HIV/AIDS thing is no joke. All of our butts are out on the line! And each and everyone of us need to be conducting our affairs and responding as if they are! Ask not what somebody can do to help you; ask what you can do to help somebody.

This brings me closer to homebase: African American Eu-men (MIM - men-who-are-intimate-with-other-men). Those of us forty and over did not grow up and come into manhood during the age of HIV. I find it difficult to imagine being a Eu-man growing up and coming into manhood in the late eighties and nineties and having this specter of death (AIDS) hanging over my head like the Sword of Damocles. I can only imagine how constricted, painful, frightening and fragile life must appear and be for young African American Eu-men. To have the joy, pleasure and exhilaration of sexual intimacy with another wrapped in the threat of a protracted death and sealed in latex is unconscionable. I can feel my young brothers pain. I also sense a backlash against my generation for being the perpetrators and spreaders of this virus among our younger brothers regardless of how untrue that might be. There is a growing rift between the 40+ African American Eu-men generation and the 30 and below generation. In the fight to overcome the HIV epidemic this rift is self-defeating.

Older mature African American Eu-men must begin to become involved not only in the fight to overcome the HIV epidemic but also in the positive development of our younger brothers. This sickening business of seeing our younger African American Eu-men as sexual objects and youthful prizes to strut the social scene with must come

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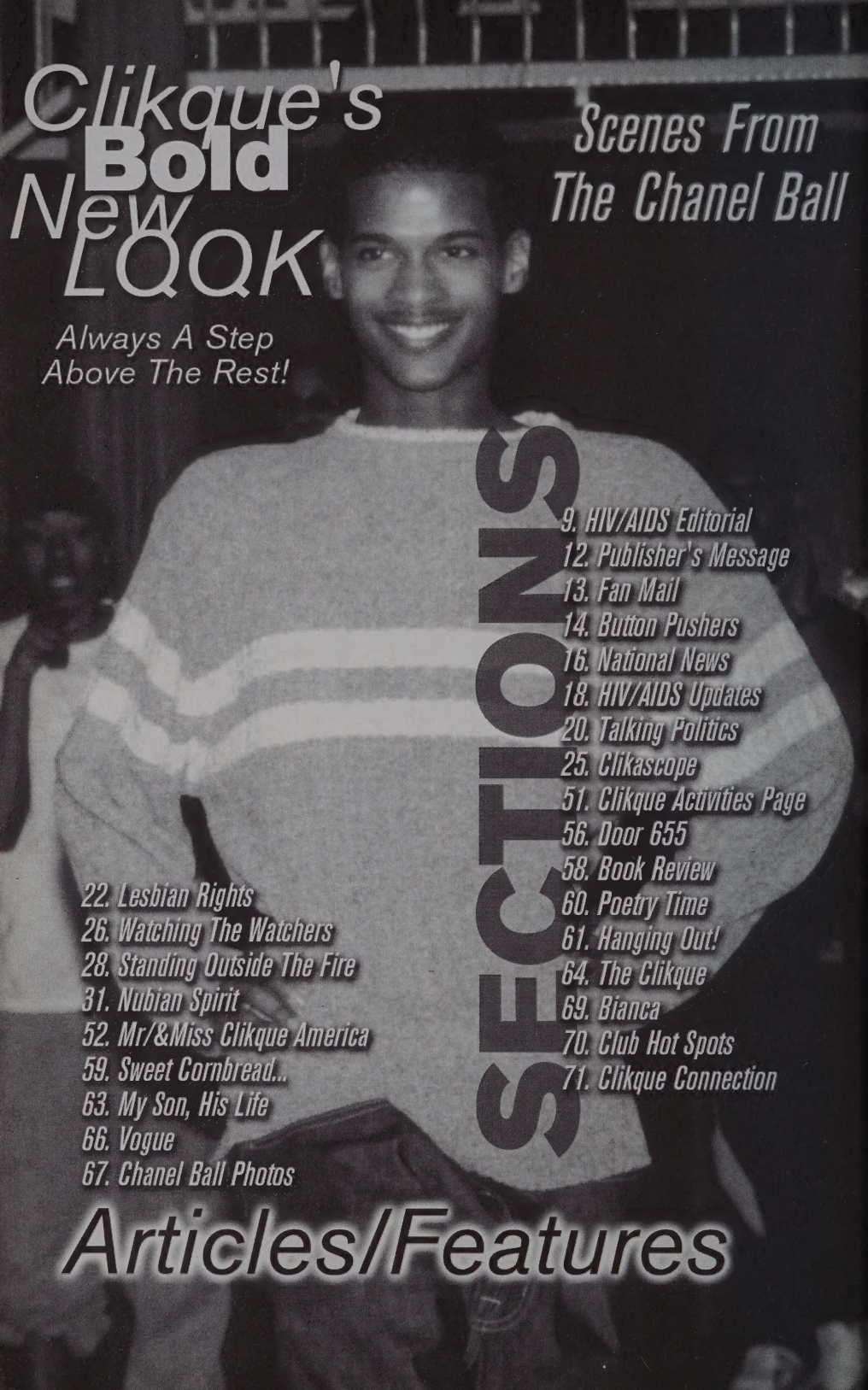
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Scenes From The Chanel Ball
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Articles/Features

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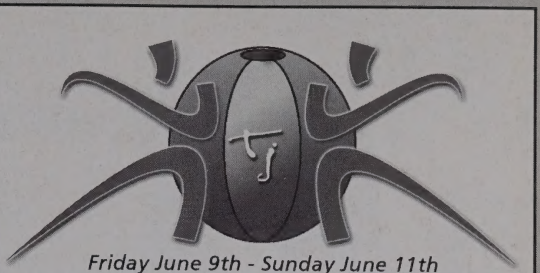

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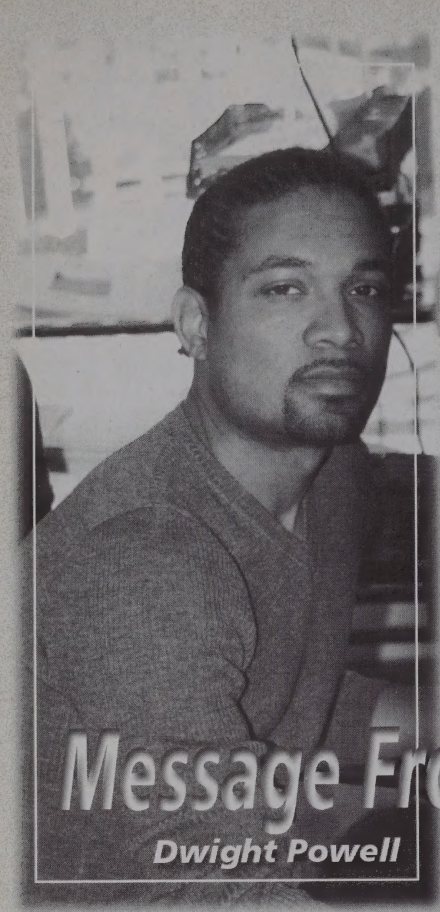


Message From The Publisher

Dwight Powell

Hello Friends. I am very proud to offer you this issue of Clikque Magazine. We are steadily approaching our 2nd year anniversary, and as you can see, we are continuing to evolve, offering a respectable, quality publication. A publication that truly respects the integrity of our same gender loving community of color.

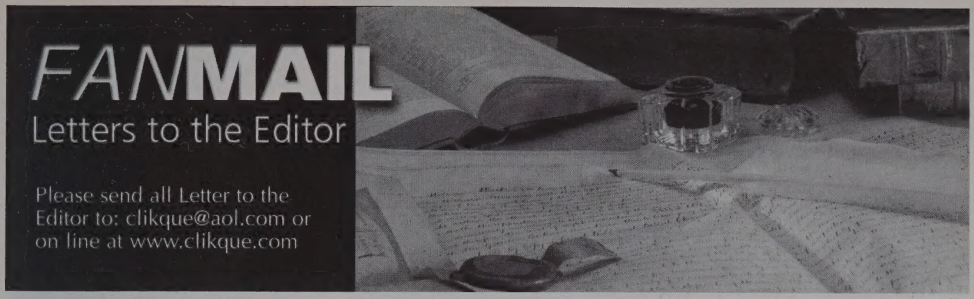
This month I would like to discuss with you two things, loyalty and commitment. Since starting this magazine in Houston almost two years ago, I have noticed quite a few disturbing aspects about our community. It amazes me how quick we are to shun the "old" and chase after the new, the improved, all that's perceived to be "better". Please don't get me wrong, I encourage and endorse change. More often than not, it's those changes that make for the betterment and growth of what was. What I don't endorse nor encourage, however, is the notion that it's OK to "drop" what was that has supported us along the way. Such changes are even far less glorified, at least in my eyes, when the initiators are not in support of people that look like me.

Let me share with you two recent encounters. A little over two years ago, a few black club promoters brought a new Friday night atmosphere to the city of Atlanta. An atmosphere that it had been needing for quite some time. Finally, a respectable place where people of African decent could hangout, relax, and meet people that were intuned with their morals, ideals and values. A place where the management truly respected and valued it's patrons. For a while, it was said by many, to be the hippest spot in Atlanta on Friday nights. Things were going great until a few months ago when the club's clientele decided that they needed a change. Something better or different...maybe. Like I said before, change doesn't have to be a bad thing. Ironically, the African-American party-goers began to frequent another establishment that traditionally catered to a mostly white clientele. There's nothing wrong with the departure, or the fact that such an establishment was considered over a more familiar one. In fact, I too wanted to see what all the fuss and excitement was about. What was this place that would make the "Kids" want to abandon their comfort zone.

I noticed many things upon entering this newly found "paradise". I passed the bar lined with many of the brothers that I had previously seen at the other establishment, two observations stood out to me: The fact that none of the staff shared my ethnicity, and the porn stars on the monitors were all White or Latino (talk about insensitive). At the time, I remember questioning myself whether I was the only one taking notice of this. The next day I decided to call upon the management seeking their support for a product that supports my brothers whom supported them the night before. No such luck, management said that they would not support an African American publication. Another premier drag establishment on Friday nights in Atlanta told me straight-up,"...we don't target that market". I was speechless and dumfounded, especially since nearly 80% of it's patrons and almost 100 percent of the entertainers are African American. Do these businesses value you as a client or are you just dollar signs in their eyes?

Please forgive me if I am coming across a little harsh. Simply, bothers me to see how quick we are to jump-ship from businesses that uplift, build and support our community to those that really don't give a damn. What's even more disappointing to me is that when we see the insensibilities, and inferior treatment and service, we continue to come back for a second serving of the same.

As the old saying goes, all good things must come to an end, or do they? Old things don't necessarily have to end, with your support, commitment, participation and feedback, you can evoke change. The kind of change that uplifts, and encourages growth... and can bring about "better". So that you won't have to seek happiness via businesses that probably don't appreciate you and your patronage. There aren't many black businesses around and there are reasons for that. The main reason resulting from lack of support and neglect. I have always been a huge advocate of supporting those that support me and my same gender loving community of African decent. I encourage you to do the same. While many new things may seem great, they're not necessarily for the betterment, upliftment and growth of our community.



I would like to congratulate the entire staff of Clikque magazine for a job well done. When I say this, I must stress the fact that Mr. Powell's publication respects the image of the gay/lesbian community. I enjoy the many interesting articles and tasteful pictures.... Continue to do good work!"

E/G in Atl

In response to reading a recent issue of Clikque, never have I been so impressed with material created by and for "our" people. Far from the typical 'bar rag' (no names mentioned- ok, what the heck, "HX" & "Next") your magazine sacrificed much of the unnecessary 'male beefcake' for interesting and thought-provoking articles. This showed me how concerned , Clikque has become with the progression of both Gays and African-Americans and how it no longer wishes to stagnate our lifestyle. I myself am an upwardly mobile, 28 y.o., African-American male. Both educated and well traveled, I work in an arts related field and am efficient in many forms of production and special events. Though this letter comes in honor of you and not myself, know that you can contact me should you ever be in need of any kind of assistance. My information you will find below. In closing, the work that you have done and are continuing to do is very important to our community. Please continue your efforts.

Jason Warley, New York

I live in Seattle, Washington and I just discovered your magazine the other day. I can't tell you how overjoyed I was to see a magazine targeted to Black gay men. I was beginning to give up hope that there would ever be anything for us. There's certainly nothing for us in Seattle. I wish you all the best with this effort because we need it! I'm looking forward to the next issue!

Eric Parsons, Seattle, Wa

Just wanted to drop support your way for a very nice magazine. As an avid reader of everything, it's always amazed me that few quality magazines for people of color seem to exist (my opinion). Very refreshing when I saw yours.

Charles Kemp, Nashville, TN.

Well, So far so good, I love the magazine. I consider myself one the kids that just checks the scene and observes. I have been keeping up with your magazine since it's debut and I am still a frequent reader (yes I do read the articles). However, I was slightly saddened when the magazine decide to hit it to Atl. I am a native Houstonian and I thought that your magazine was just the boost that our black gay community needed to add some flare. I mean we always hear how hot it is in Atl, and for a long time I always felt that Houston needed to sizzle. I do appreciate that you have managed to keep Houston a direct source of "tea" and pics for Queen Scene or vice versa.

Prince Charles, Texas

Thanks for the 'life' line!! Clikque Magazine has become an invaluable resource to me and my friends as we plan travel related social activities. I personally look forward to each issue to catch up on things that I missed around the country, and to be challenged to think about issues and opinions that I might not have otherwise. I am heartened to find that Clikque Magazine is raising the bar and setting the standard for what we can expect from media publishers who appeal to our particular audience.

Way to go!!

Just wanted to let you all know that I like your material, it is very interesting. I normally do not like to read anything that relates to the "gay community", however this reading is different and I like it. I would like to subscribe but I'm having financial problems at this time (just brought a house and a new car). Once I am stable again, just look forward to being a subscriber.

Kareem J.

B4 I start to complain, let me first start out by saying THANKS. Thanks for providing the gay, lesbian and trans-gender community a publication like Clikque. Now myself and many others here in Chicago would like to know; where were you guys Thanksgiving Weekend? I almost never go out and decided I would that weekend because "Clikque" would be in town. You were no where to be found. NO Release Party, NO Cover Model Contest. What happened?....

Eddie Meeks III, Chicago

Hello I'm an 18 year old male living in Memphis Tn.
I wanted to tell you that I think that your magazine is very interesting because it is not only for the GAY or Bi sexual people. There are a variety of things and articles and a lot of interesting issues in the magazine . I was just letting you know that I really enjoy the magazine.

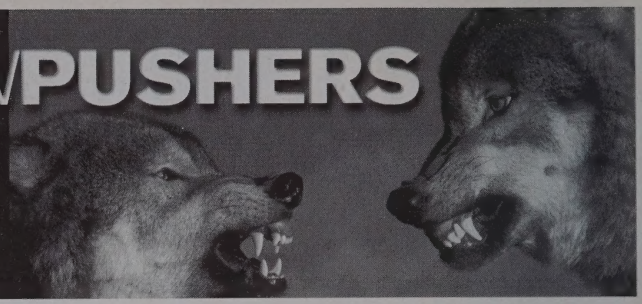
Desmond Dupree , Memphis

As I browsed my way in Giovanni's bookstore in Philly I came across your publication for the first time. I purchased it and read it and I think that it is a good publication for those of us who are same gender loving men/women.

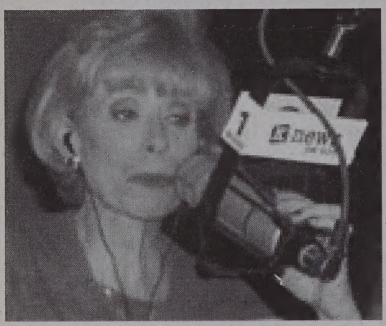
Via Email

BUTTONPUSHERS

Clikque Magazine



Laura Schlessinger To Come Into Your Home This Fall



She's been sending her messages of hate via radio. Now Paramount is ready to bring her into your living rooms. Few things are certain when it comes to Dr. Laura Schlessinger's upcoming TV show.

What is sure: Paramount Television Group is developing and syndicating the show, set to air this fall.

No-nonsense advice dispenser "Dr. Laura" is well known for the anti-gay message she preaches on her radio talk show, broadcast on more than 400 stations to 18 million listeners weekly.

The format of the hour-long TV program remains unclear, but that hasn't stopped TV stations in 90 percent of the country's markets from snapping it up, sight unseen.

That has gays who work at Paramount, including the co-creator one of the studio's most popular TV shows, hopping mad.

"I am outraged," fumed David Lee, openly gay executive producer and co-creator of the highly successful sitcom "Frasier," from his car on the way to the studio.

"I have created, written or produced material for Paramount in excess of a billion dollars," he said, "and I'm not the only gay person at Paramount who has contributed greatly.

"I think it's outrageous that Paramount chooses to air a woman who is, I think, literally dangerous to the gay community. She may not go out there with a club in her hand, but she is providing a petri dish where hatred can grow."

Laura's Views:

Rights. Rights? Rights! For sexual deviant, ... sexual behavior there are now rights. That's what I'm worried about with the pedophilia and the bestiality and the sado-masochism and the cross-dressing. Is this all going to be "rights" too, to deviant sexual behavior. It's deviant sexual behavior. Why does deviant sexual behavior get rights?

ON GAYS AND PEDOPHILIA:

Well, according to Dr. Aarden VanWeg, an expert in homosexuality and other forms of deviant sexual behavior in Holland, that although numerically there are more pedophiles that are heterosexual, percentage-wise in a population, it's much greater in the homosexual community. So there is some relationship. No, not every homosexual is a pedophile—obviously not—but it's a greater percentage—much greater.

How many letters have I read on the air from gay men who acknowledge that a huge portion of the male homosexual populace is predatory on young boys?

ON GAY PRIDE MONTH AND LESBIAN MOTHERHOOD:

Two things I want to bring to your attention. One, about two weeks ago, our esteemed President Clinton called June a whole month of celebration of homosexuality. Is he nuts? By the way, there is no month celebrating heterosexuality. There is no such month. ...

He wants us to celebrate that it is a sad state of affairs, in my opinion, that there are some people who cannot or will not commune with members of the opposite sex in an intimate way and be married and make children in families.

That men have to have sex with men is not something to celebrate. It's a sadness. It is a sadness, and there are therapies which have been successful in helping a reasonable number of people become heterosexual.

ON GAY MARRIAGE:

Do you people realize that in Vermont and Massachusetts they are trying to change the definition of marriage from a man and a woman in the sight of God to any two people?

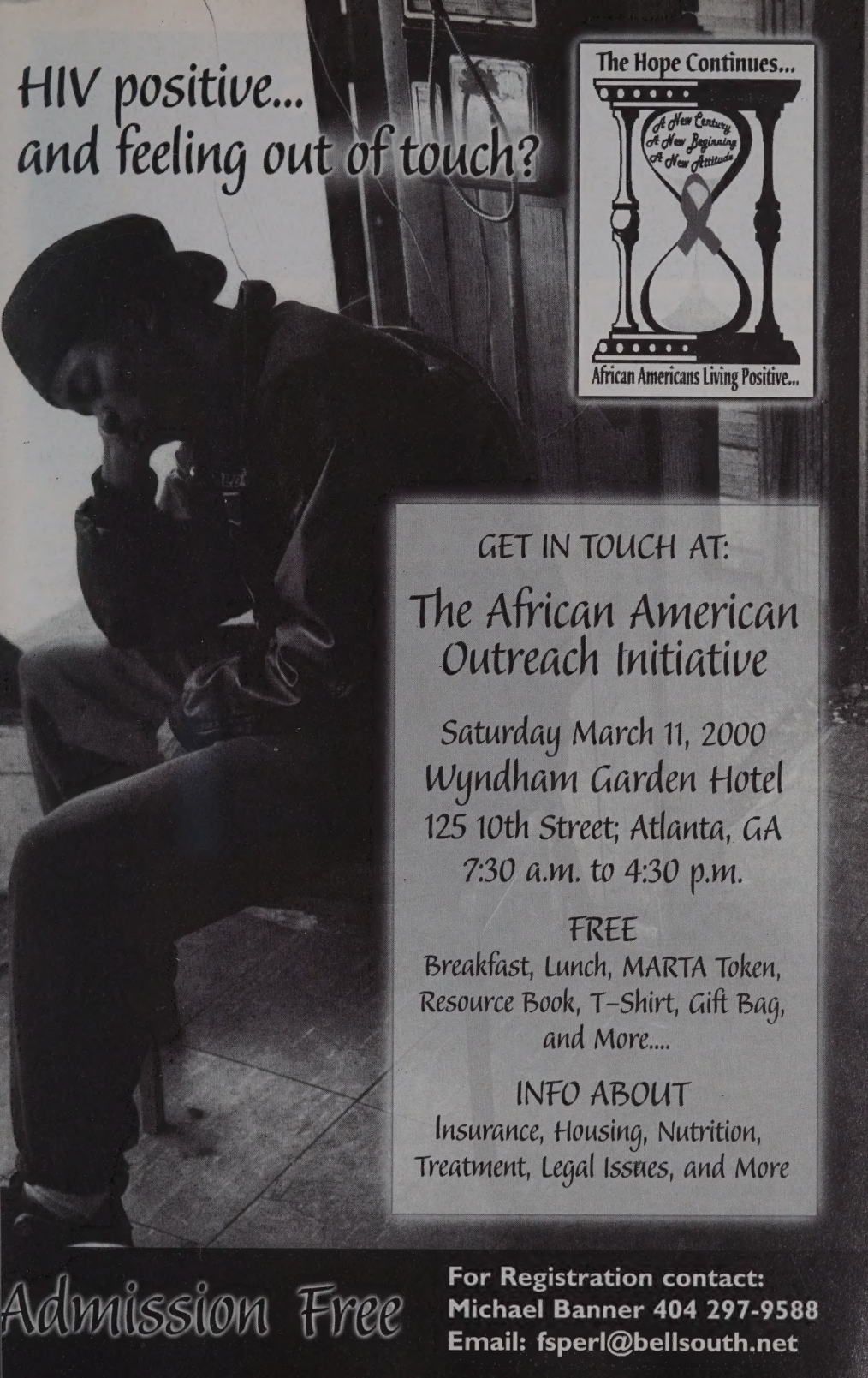
You're going to stand for that, you're going to sit for that, you're going to just let this stuff go by, you're not going to fight?

You're not going to fight to make sure that homosexuals and lesbians can't adopt children from birth who can go to heterosexual families, so they will be intentionally robbed of a father or a mother on purpose in spite of all the psychological and sociological literature?

You're going to stand by and let this happen, just go to work and put gas in your car today? Don't you care about children?

If you're gay or lesbian, it's a biological error that inhibits you from relating normally to the opposite sex. That fact that you are intelligent, creative and valuable is all true.

The error is in your inability to relate sexually intimately, in a loving way to a member of the opposite sex—it is a biological error.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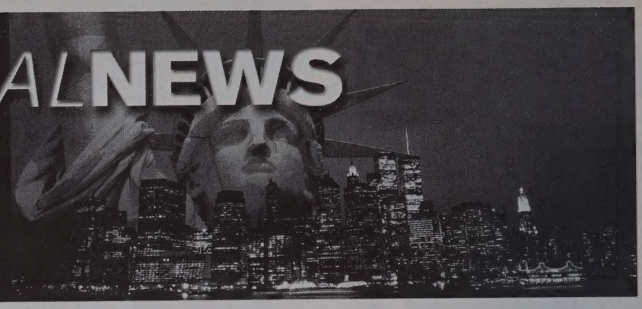


ANTI-GAY CONFERENCE ADS FOR 'EX-GAYS" REJECTED BY TAMPA MEDIA

TAMPA— The Tampa Tribune reported Feb. 11. that A Christian group promoting a conference aimed at preventing homosexuality among teens has claimed it is being censored by media that won't run their ads. "We have a constitutional right to this message, and we feel that people are at work to get our message silenced," said John Paulk of Focus on the Family, which has sponsored six "Love Won Out" conferences across the U.S. Their ad, "Tired of Being Gay?" has run since Jan. 28 in the Tribune's "Friday Extra" section. But a 10-second ad they ran on WSSR-FM caused local radio personality Carmen Conner to apologize after it aired, and the station quickly dropped the ads. Several other radio stations have cancelled promotional spots for the conference. Eller Media Co. in Clearwater backed out of a verbal commitment to work on a bus shelter promotion. In its materials, Focus on the Family says its purpose is to educate public school administrators, teachers and parents about the "homosexual agenda in Florida public schools, and how they should respond." The conference was set for Feb. 26 at a Baptist church in Brandon, Fla.

FINDINGS SUGGESTS THAT BIRDS ARE BAD FOR THOSE WITH WEAK IMMUNE SYSTEMS,

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—People with weakened immune systems who come in contact with birds may be putting themselves at risk for developing life-threatening illnesses, according to a study published the Feb. 8 issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine. It found that the 1998 death of a 72-year-old Boston woman might have been caused by breathing an airborne fungus found in bird feces. The woman, who lived in a house with family members, had owned a pet cockatoo for seven years. She did not live on the same floor as the bird, but did pass its cage several times a week. The woman had undergone a liver transplant in 1989 and was taking drugs that suppress the body's immune system. The study's authors said it may be wise to advise people with compromised immune systems, including HIV and AIDS patients, to consider avoiding pet birds and public places such as parks where pigeon and other bird feces may be found.

GAY GROUP SUPPORTS BALLOT MEASURE BAN ON SAME-SEX-MARRIAGE

SACRAMENTO (AP)—A proposed same-sex-marriage ban on California's March 7 ballot is drawing some unexpected support from a small group of gay men and women. The Proposition 22 campaign announced Feb. 10 the formation of a coalition called "Gays for 22." Tom Beddingfield, 24, a gay political consultant from San Jose and coalition chairman, said he has been seeking other gays who share his support for the initiative. "California needs to be protected from other state judges redefining our law for us," said Beddingfield. "It's not an anti-gay initiative," Beddingfield said at a news conference. He said his coalition claims about 50 members statewide. Opponents of the initiative said the five public members of the group, all in their early 20s, are "naïve."

AMERICA'S FIRST OPENLY GAY DEAN APPOINTED AT EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

SEATTLE—Rev. Robert Taylor was installed Feb. 12 as dean of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, the first openly gay dean of an Episcopal cathedral in the U.S., the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported. Some had feared St Mark's would suffer a backlash when it announced last summer that it had selected Taylor to lead the Capitol Hill cathedral, the largest Episcopal congregation in Western Washington. But the South Africa native's selection—and his work since his arrival at St. Mark's—have instead brought on a wave of good will and optimism, church leaders said. Fund-raising is up 45 percent, and attendance is high. Part of Taylor's appeal for the search committee was in his years of fighting apartheid when he was a young man in Cape Town. He fled to the United States with the help of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was present at Taylor's installation.

BUDGET CUTS FOR MILLENNIUM MARCH ON WASHINGTON

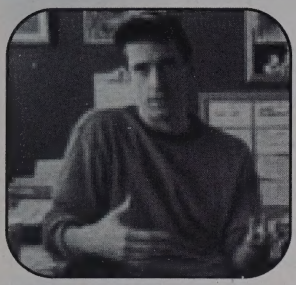
WASHINGTON—Organizers of the Millennium March on Washington for Equality have cut $1 million from the budget, both from anticipated costs and revenue projections from the April 30 event. But despite cuts and even a loan from one of its directors, budget projections show the event is running a deficit. Diane Hardy-Garcia, MMOW co-executive director, says budget cuts were necessary to bring the cost of the event down from $2.97 to under $2 million. MMOW organizers are counting on revenue projections from a street festival, merchandise and corporate marketing to pay the cost of the April 30 event. Plans call for a march, a rally on the National Mall, a two-day street festival, and about two dozen related events April 28-30. A group, the Ad Hoc Committee for an Open Process, has called on MMOW officials to cancel the march, citing concerns over its purpose, and what one critic has called its "top-down, closed-door" planning process.

COLLEGE STUDENT STABBED IN BACK IN APPARENT HATE CRIME

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—A 20-year-old University of Arizona student was stabbed Feb. 6 outside a cafe that caters to gay customers in what police are calling a hate crime. Witnesses said the attacker said he wanted to "kill a fucking faggot" before and after stabbing the victim in the back. "Let this be a warning to the gay community!" the attacker reportedly yelled as he fled the scene. Police arrested Gary Grayson, 37, about a block away from the Rainbow Planet Cafe, and charged him with aggravated assault. The attack came the day before the university's Pride Alliance kicked off its annual Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Awareness Week. The victim, who has asked to remain anonymous, made an unexpected appearance at a rally of 1,500 on his behalf near the University of

Arizona campus seven days after the stabbing. "I am afraid," said the tearful student. "I am afraid to be the target of the world's discrimination. I am afraid of the hate that leads to violence. But perhaps I am most afraid that I am but one target in a world that holds so much intolerance to so many."

GAY COLUMNIST SAYS FLU TERRORISM AIMED AT GARY BAUER WAS A JOKE



DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)–A Seattle columnist under investigation for alleged voter fraud during the Iowa caucuses says his story about trying to infect former presidential candidate Gary Bauer with the flu was just a joke. During the final days of the campaign, Dan Savage posed as a volunteer at Bauer's headquarters in Des Moines. He also claimed, in a column for the on-line magazine Salon, to have voted in the caucuses. Savage, who was suffering from the flu, also wrote that he licked doorknobs and coffee cups and slobbered on a pen, all in hopes of slowing Bauer and his conservative agenda. "A good chunk of it was satire," said Savage. "People overlooked the fact that it was called 'The Merry Prankster.'" Prosecutors are still deciding whether to file charges.

ORANGE COUNTY GAY/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE MEETS UNDER COURT ORDER

ORANGE, Calif.—Reaction spread throughout the county as Orange Unified School Board trustees indicated that in July they plan to require students to get parental permission before joining school groups, the Orange County Register reported Feb. 12. Meanwhile, a gay/straight alliance at the center of the controversy met for the first time—under court order—at El Modena High School Feb. 9. A brief melee broke out as school let out, and 30 or so students swarmed a dozen anti-gay protesters across the street from campus and shouted at them to go away, the Los Angeles Times reported Feb. 10. The students rushed across the street as the poster-waving protesters, most of them from Utah, shouted "Stop gay clubs!" and "Stop the propaganda!" About 70 students walked off campus on Feb. 11, some to protest the club, some to support it, some supporting a recently suspended student, and some just trying to get their faces on TV, district spokesperson Judy Frutig said.

Meanwhile, two students have asked to start a gay support group at another Orange County high school. But officials in their school district said they have a policy that prohibits all clubs not related to the classroom.

IND. MAN WHO PREVENTED GAY ADOPTION SENTENCED FOR CHILD ABUSE

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP)—A man who received statewide attention for stopping a gay man from adopting a girl under his foster care was sentenced Feb. 9 to 40 years in prison for molesting that same girl. Earl "Butch" Kimmerling, pleaded guilty last month to four counts of molesting his foster daughter, now 9. He and his wife, Saundra, fought in 1998 to keep the girl from being adopted by Craig Peterson, a gay man who had adopted the little girl's three brothers. Judge Frederick Spencer called Kimmerling's crime a betrayal of trust and ordered him to serve 40 years of a 50-year maximum sentence. Prosecutors had argued for a harsh sentence.

NEW ORLEANS TV REPORTER BUSTED FOR DRUGS, SEX WITH UNDERAGE BOYS

NEW ORLEANS—A veteran reporter in New Orleans was arrested Feb. 4 for having sex with underage boys and drug charges. Mike Longman, 43, who has worked in New Orleans for more than two decades, was an award-winning investigative reporter with WVUE-TV at the time of his arrest. In an impromptu news conference, Longman admitted only to having an alcohol problem. Lt. David Benelli said New Orleans police were initially tipped off by a youth counselor, who informed them that a 15-year-old boy at a group home for abused children reported he had exchanged sex for money with Longman. Benelli said a raid of Longman's house produced 22 videocassettes showing Longman engaged in various sex acts with "very young-looking males." The videos also reportedly showed the newsman using and sharing cocaine.

POLICE STAY MUM ON MURDER OF 19-YEAR-OLD IN WASHINGTON

VANCOUVER, Wash.—Nineteen-year-old Alex Smith was found dead Feb. 11 by a roommate in his home, the Vancouver Columbian reported. Police say Smith had been dead two or three days and was murdered, but have declined to reveal how he died. Friends who have set up an Internet web-site as a memorial to Smith (www.xpmag.com) said they were shocked and saddened and had no idea who would have wanted to harm him. Police spokesman Sgt. Dave King said this morning that detectives had interviewed many people in Smith's circle of friends and acquaintances but had found no prime suspect.

RASH OF PARK BASHINGS BY TEENAGE GANGS ALARM MELBOURNE POLICE

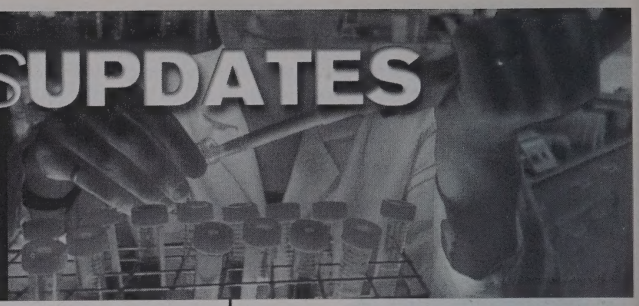
MELBOURNE—A rash of gay-bashings is turning into a "blood sport" in Melbourne, the Emerald Hill Times reported Feb. 9. Teenagers as young as 16 are stalking their victims through Alma Park and catching them alone before bashing them. The vicious beatings have prompted police to plead for men to be alert when wandering in gay cruising spots. The latest attack, which left a 38-year-old man with severe injuries, came in late January. Police believe up to 10 teenagers cornered the man and turned on him with their fists and feet until he lost consciousness. Police are also investigating another six bashings in as many months but believe this is only "the tip of the iceberg" because many men are too ashamed or scared to report the attacks.

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTED INSTEAD OF GAY MARRIAGE IN VERMONT

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)–Lesbian and gay couples should be granted the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples through a broad civil rights statute, but not marriage, a Vermont House committee decided. The Judiciary Committee voted Feb. 9 to draft legislation that would extend legal rights to gay domestic partnerships. Three of the 11 committee members wanted a bill that would have legalized gay marriage. "This is a momentous vote," Gov. Howard Dean said. "It's a vote to move forward to become the first state to really grant equal rights" to gays. The legislature has been grappling with how to respond to a state supreme court ruling in December that said gay couples are unconstitutionally being denied rights and benefits that accompany legal marriage. Committee members stressed their decision to bypass marriage was a difficult one that was not intended to offend or discriminate.

HIV/AIDS UPDATES

Clikque Magazine

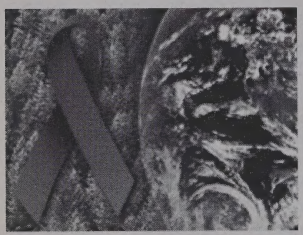


New drugs may reduce daunting number of pills taken by AIDS patients

Powerful new AIDS drugs in development should help relieve one of the biggest problems of treatment — the pill burden.

Over the past four years, new treatment combinations have revolutionized AIDS care, changing HIV infection from a death sentence to a disease that is treatable, if not curable.

However, patients must adhere to a tedious and exacting schedule of downing pills, often more than 20 a day.



Now, drugmakers are working on new drugs that require much smaller doses as well as better versions of the old standbys that can be taken less frequently.

Experts say that if all goes well, over the next two or so years it may be possible to reduce the pill burden to just four tablets taken once a day.

"Most drugs are dosed twice or three times a day for a reason. Once a day is not enough. The Holy Grail would be to take all your medicines once a day with as few capsules as possible. We are not so far from that, maybe in the next couple of years," said Dr. Eugene Sun, head of antiviral drug research at Abbott Laboratories.

The pill-taking schedule is more than just a nuisance. Those who miss even a few doses risk losing control over their virus. Without enough medicine in the bloodstream, HIV comes roaring back, often generating mutant versions that are resistant to the drugs.

About half of all patients who initially respond to treatment eventually find their virus levels rebounding, and the most common reason for this is failure to stick to a pill schedule.

A key ingredient of most drug regimens is a class of medicines called protease inhibitors. They are often combined with two or three older kinds of drugs, such as ddI and AZT.

At this week's 7th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in San Francisco, doctors described results of testing with new varieties of protease inhibitors. Some of these medicines are 10 times more powerful than the ones that transformed AIDS treatment.

Protease inhibitors are by far the biggest lump in the pill burden. Typically patients must take three of them three times a day — a total of nine pills — often on an empty stomach.

In the works are protease inhibitors that doctors hope will need to be taken twice or even just once a day. One of these described Wednesday is Bristol-Myers Squibb's drug code-named BMS-232632.

In preliminary testing directed by Sanne, it appears that one or two of these pills once a day is as effective at suppressing HIV as the standard dose of nelfinavir, an older protease inhibitor.

Abbott presented promising results with its experimental protease inhibitor ABT-378, showing it seems to work against strains of virus that are already resistant to other drugs. The drug will be combined with ritonavir, another protease inhibitor, into pills that will be taken three at a time, twice a day. The company is working on smaller doses as well.

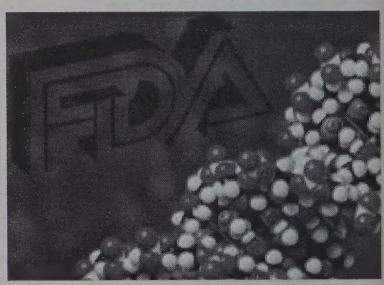
Unexpected side effects can quickly derail development of these drugs. Merck Research Laboratories was scheduled to present results of its new protease inhibitor at the meeting Wednesday. But two weeks ago, it suspended human testing of the drug after rat experiments turned up possible kidney damage. The medicine, called MK-944A, is a combination of a new protease inhibitor and an older one, called indinavir, into a single pill that would be taken once or twice a day.

Extensive tests have found that gene therapy given to a group of dying cancer patients was not contaminated with hepatitis C or the virus that causes AIDS.

FDA: AIDS scare a false alarm

A few weeks ago, several newspapers reported that highly preliminary laboratory testing suggested an experiment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Houston's Baylor College of Medicine might have exposed children to the viruses.

However, the Food and Drug Administration said those lab tests are prone to errors.



Most of the children, who had advanced cases of the nervous system cancer neuroblastoma, have died of their cancer since the experiment. After the media reports, the hospitals tracked down survivors' families to warn them.

Thursday, after finishing several rounds of confirmatory testing, the FDA said there was no problem — the children were not exposed to infection.

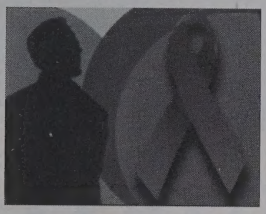
The agency said the scare also shows research labs must be careful in how they test gene therapy products for possible contamination — the lab St. Jude's hired used an error-prone method not even FDA-approved for gene therapy.

The concern arose when a St. Jude's researcher realized cells used to grow some of the gene-based medicine might not have undergone proper quality testing, and so began to double-check. The FDA will continue to investigate whether that portion of the experiment followed federal rules.

Tree bark yields two possible AIDS treatments

Scientists mining the world's forests for potential new drugs said Saturday they had found two new possible treatments for AIDS patients in the bark of trees.

A tree in Argentina has



yielded a compound that attacks the AIDS virus, while a tree found across Africa makes an an anti fungal compound that might work against the mouth infections that plague HIV patients, researchers said.

They told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) that their findings show the world's forests are still a rich source of new drugs — and they say their programs are also good examples of how developing countries can benefit from their natural resources.

Kurt Hostettmann of the University of Lausanne in Switzerland said his team had found an anti fungal compound in a tree known as Bobgunnia madagascariensis, which is found across Africa.

"Our compound is more active than all the compounds on the market," Hostettmann told a news conference.

It acts against Candida albicans, responsible for many fungal skin conditions and for the mycosis that affects the mouths, eyes and other parts of AIDS patients. It also can kill Aspergillis, which can cause a fatal lung condition and several other species of fungi that infect people, researchers said.

The compound is found only on the outer layer of the bark covering the roots — and then only the parts of the roots that are underground. It seems to be produced by the tree to protect itself against fungal infestations.

It takes six trees to make enough compound to test. Hostettmann said his group does not want to destroy all the trees so they have linked up with a U.S. drug company to synthesize the compound.

Hostettmann declined to name the company involved, but said his team had patented the compound and hoped to step up testing soon.

Mahabir Gupta of the University of Panama described an extract found in a tree in Argentina that "shows remarkable anti-HIV activity."

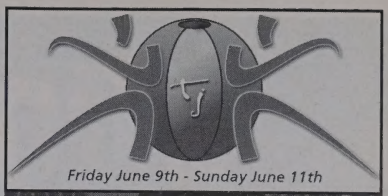
His team is now working with experts at the University of Pamplona in Spain to develop it.

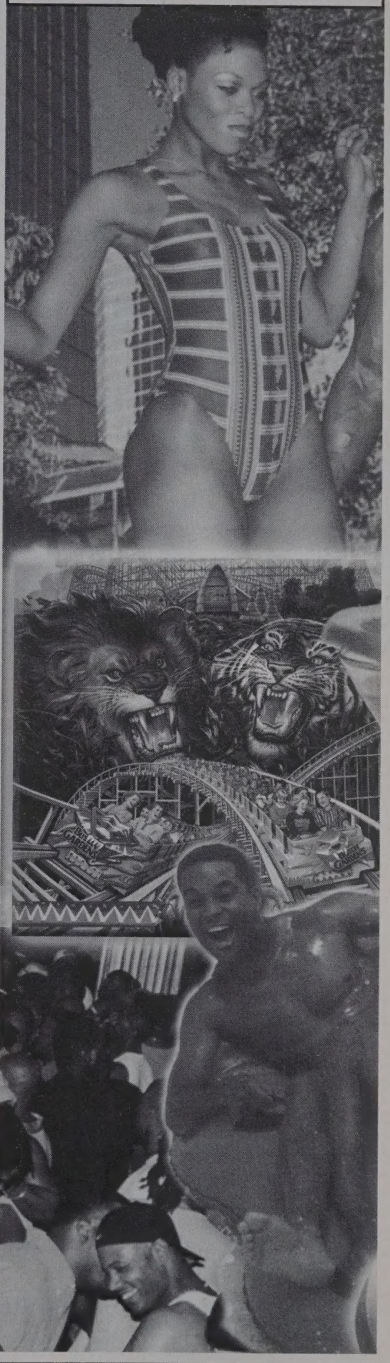
"We feel that international cooperation is the one way to solve our needs," he told the news conference.

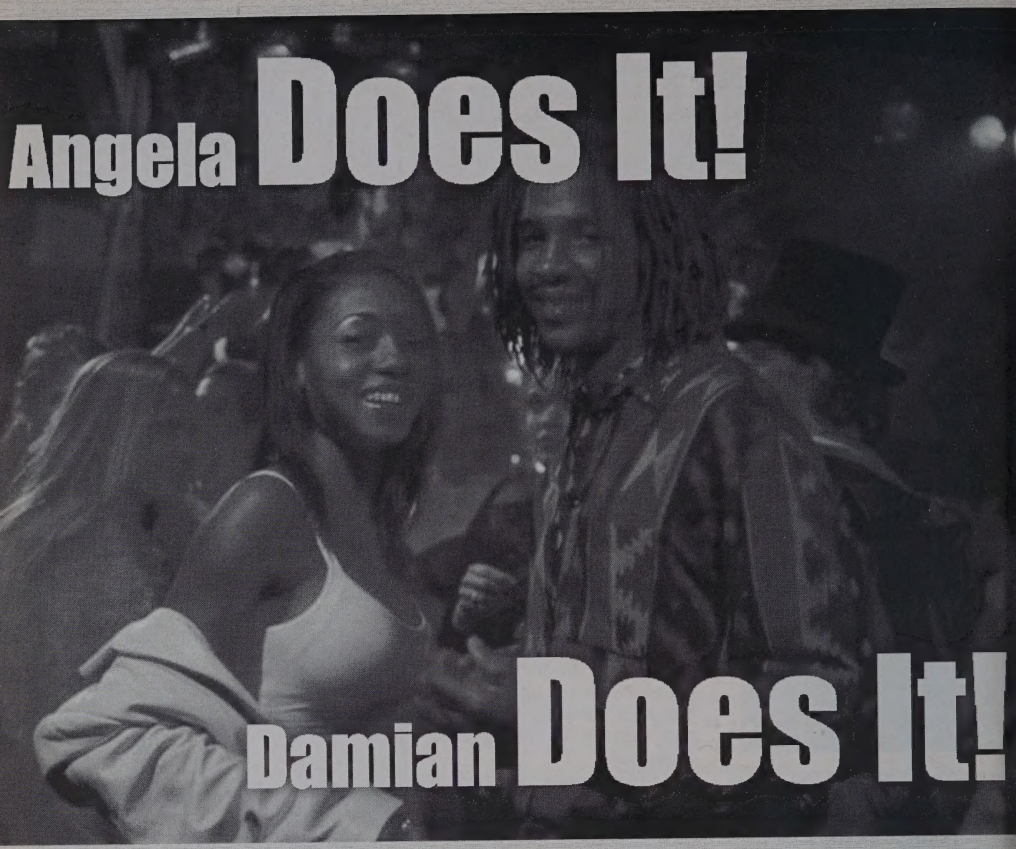
Companies have been criticized in the past for exploiting natural sources of drugs without compensating the countries where they were found, but Gupta said working with companies was the only way to develop promising compounds into drugs.

"If alliances are made in an intelligent way where both parties gain, I think it would be fruitful," he said.

Hostettmann said his team had a contract with the University of Zimbabwe to make sure money went back into the countries that supplied the trees.







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TALKING POLITICS

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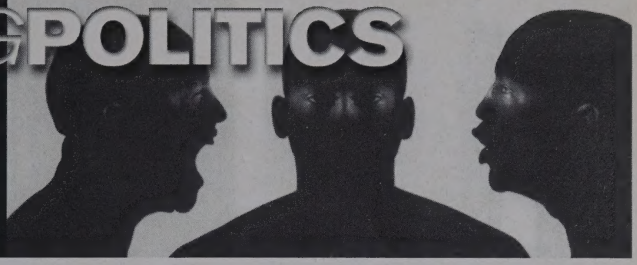


Taking The Democratic Stand On Issues

Gays in the military

Bradley: ..As a senator, voted against "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in 1993; voted for an amendment that would have given President Clinton the authority to lift the ban by executive order. In September 1999, became the first presidential candidate to publicly call for overturning DADT and allowing gays to serve openly.

Gore: .....Reportedly worked behind-the-scenes to encourage Clinton to lift the ban entirely, though he ultimately supported DADT. Last fall called only for more "compassionate" enforcement of DADT. After President and Hillary Clinton joined Bradley in calling for DADT to be scrapped, Gore announced opposition to DADT.

Anti-discrimination laws

Bradley:....As a senator, voted for Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 1996, when the federal bill to ban job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation failed by just one vote. Also supports amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964—the landmark civil rights bill banning discrimination in employment, public accommodations, voting rights and other areas—to add sexual orientation as a category.

Gore:.....Favors ENDA and, as vice president, was prepared to fly back to D.C. to vote if the bill had reached a tie in the Senate in 1996. Gore has joined some gay activists in opposing Bradley's suggestion of amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act, calling opening the act too dangerous in a conservative Congress. Gore supports in concept banning discrimination against gays in other categories but favors focusing first on ENDA.

Gay marriage

Bradley:....Voted for the anti-gay "Defense of Marriage Act" in the Senate in 1996. Opposed to legalizing marriage for gays, but supports granting domestic partnerships with "all the legal and economic benefits" that come with marriage. Was the first presidential candidate to speak out against the Knight Initiative, a California ballot measure to ban gay marriage in the state; praised the Vermont Supreme Court ruling that requires equal benefits for gay and straight couples.

Gore:.....Supported DOMA, and is opposed to same-sex marriage, but has said he is "for legal protection for domestic partnerships." Announced his opposition to the Knight Initiative after Bradley. Also praised the Vermont ruling.

Hate crimes legislation

Bradley:....Supports the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would add sexual orientation, gender and disability to existing federal hate crimes laws and provide for greater federal jurisdiction in prosecuting such crimes.

Gore:.....Supports HCPA and has repeatedly spoken in favor of the bill.

Gay parenting issues

Bradley:....Supports adoption rights for gay men and lesbians.

Gore:.....Opposes efforts to ban gay adoptions. According to a spokesperson, "the vice president would leave gay adoptions up to adoption professionals on an individual basis."

Gay appointments

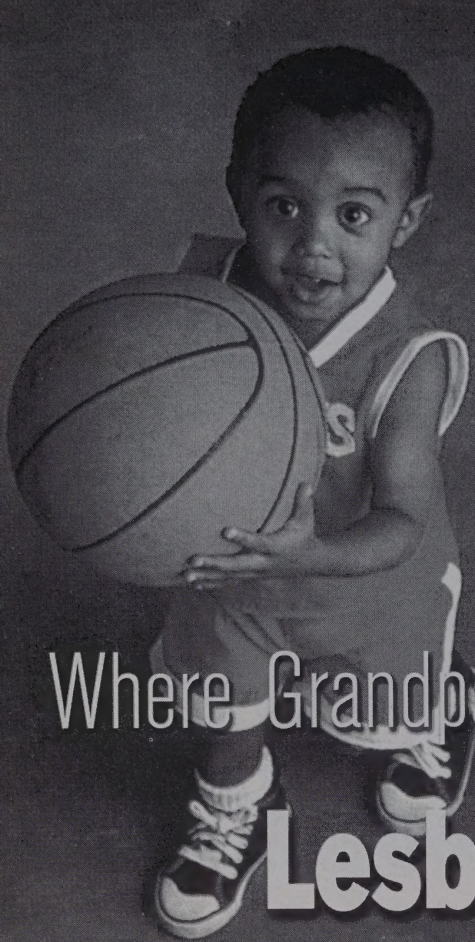
Bradley:....Would appoint qualified gay men and lesbians to his administration.

Gore:.....Would appoint qualified gay men and lesbians; Clinton-Gore administration has appointed more openly gay individuals than any previous administration.

April's Topic Of The Month

You might already be aware that over the past few years gays and lesbians (mostly white) have been fighting the courts, governments and society for the right to legalized same gender marriages. What are your thoughts on this topic? Should gays and lesbians be granted the right to marry and be legally recognize as such? Why isn't this a hot issue for our SGL community of color?

We welcome your comments on the above topic. A selected number of entries will be published in the magazine. Please try to limit your entries to 500 words; we would like to publish as many entries as possible. Photo Submission Optional.
Deadline: 3-15-99



I am a lesbian in my mid-thirties, and the only minor in my custody is a one and-a-half-year old beagle mix. On the face of it, one would think that the fact that the Supreme Court is considering whether grandparents should have the right to visit their grandchildren against the wishes of the child's parent, has nothing to do with me. But Troxel v. Granville, the case in which Jenifer and Gary Troxel of Washington petitioned for visitation with their grandchildren after their son, the children's father, killed himself, has a lot to do with my life.

The Troxel case is about parental rights: specifically, whether or not parents can say who sees their children and when. It's also about the rights of certain people to remain in a child's life on a consistent basis when doing so would be in the child's best interest, even if the parents would rather not allow it. The fact is, I have only a beagle-mix in my custody because the court's definition of family does not include me. (Just don't tell that to the sixth grader who calls me her parent — even though for five years I was not able to see or speak to her, and had no legal right to fight for that privilege.)

Where Grandparents Rights *Meets* Lesbian Rights

By: NANCY ABRAMS

Here's how it happened. Twelve years ago, my female lover and I decided to have a baby together. She got pregnant and we got a lawyer. We drew up wills and powers of attorney stating that it was our intention that the child she bore would count us both as parents.

Our baby came into the world on a beautiful autumn day, and with her came a raft of responsibilities. These we shared, from choosing a name, to deciding between cloth or disposable diapers. We took turns feeding her, shared the financial burden, and planned her future together. Our little girl, who called my partner Mama, and me, Ima (the Hebrew word for mother) had no idea that one of her mommies had no recognized legal ties to her.

But just as our daughter was learning to talk, my partner and I were finding that we could no longer speak civilly to one another.

By 1993 we had separated and were engaged in an icy dispute over my right to visit our child. Our standoff involved judges and lawyers and ended in my being forbidden from having any contact with my daughter. In the eyes of the judge I was an unrelated adult, a "biological stranger." The powers of attorney and will we'd drawn up during the pregnancy and which formalized our intent at the time that I be the child's de facto parent, held no ground.

I realized when I was losing my daughter that had I been her father instead

of her co-mother, I would have been awarded court-sanctioned visitation

rights. Had I been her grandmother, I would at least have had the right, in all 50 states, to petition for visitation. Instead, with the court's blessing, I was completely cut off from all contact with my then 4-year-old child.

Today there are dozens of lesbian versus lesbian custody and visitation cases in the courts — and many more are being played out outside the legal system. And while there have been a smattering of successful outcomes for the non-biologically related co-mothers, we rarely win. So far, only a handful of states allow lesbian co-mothers to adopt their child in so-called two parent adoptions (the only way same-sex couples can enjoy legal ties to their children).

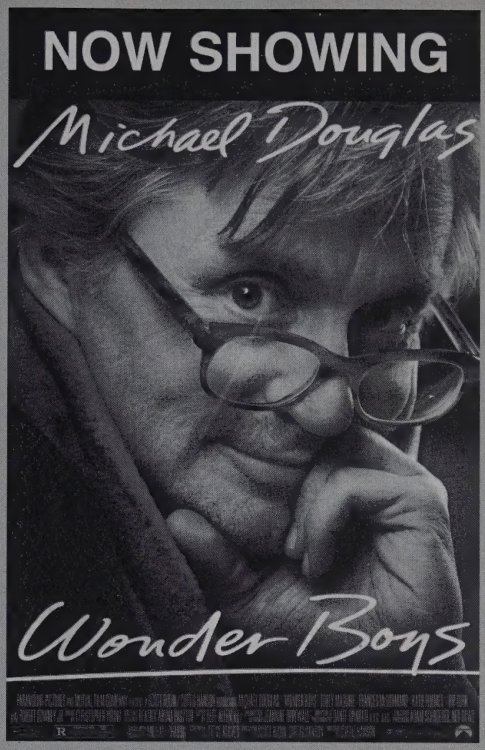
Although the number of children who have been or will be affected by lesbian divorce is not known, the fact that between one-third and one-half of all lesbians are estimated to be raising children suggests that same-sex custody disputes are inevitable. And without legal protections, painful outcomes for the parents, and most importantly our children, seem just as inevitable. That is, unless our courts broaden their definitions of what makes a family — from a child's-eye point of view.

The Troxel case is an opportunity to do just that. In considering these grandparents' requests, the highest court in our land is being forced to consider what a family is. It is forcing our country to consider that it might be in the best interests of all of our children to examine carefully, on a case by case basis, the strength of the ties between adults and children, and which of those bonds should be protected.

Some are saying the Troxel case proves that Washington state's laws, which allow any adult to sue for visitation of a child, are too broad. A lack of any criteria for who can ask a judge for regular contact with a child undermines a parents' authority, they say. That may well be, but I know from experience the dangers of laws that take too narrow a view of what makes a family. And now, when less then a quarter of all American families fit the paradigm of a mother a father and a couple of children, it is more important than ever to write laws that take into consideration the ever-broadening definitions of family that are being created in extended, blended and gay and

lesbian families. The alternative is to have children, like the Troxel's granddaughters, and my daughter, cut off from the people they love; the people they call family.

NANCY ABRAMS is the author of THE OTHER MOTHER: A LESBIAN'S FIGHT FOR HER DAUGHTER (University of Wisconsin Press), a memoir of a lesbian versus lesbian custody dispute.



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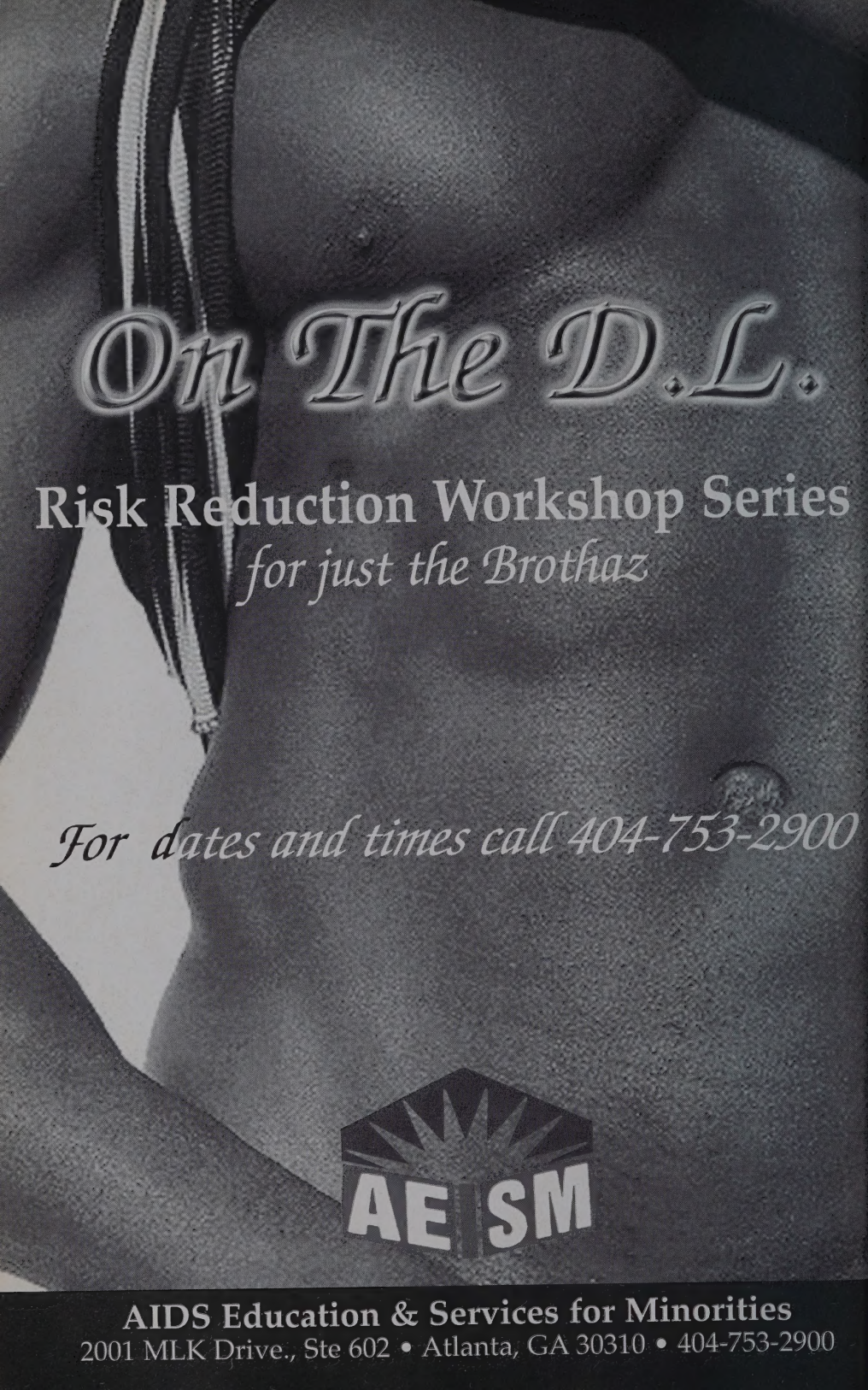
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Getting Your Month Off To A Great Start

PISCES — Come out and be seen this month. Your unique style is admirable. Your talents should not be hidden, but shared with everyone around you.

ARIES — You will experience tremendous personal growth. Your beliefs and opinions about certain issues are likely to change. Experimentation is the word that best describes your lifestyle right now, so enjoy!

TAURUS — Take control of your life and manage your sensual desires. Beware that all that you desire is not necessarily good for you. Focus on doing things differently and step out of your daily routine by doing something unique and spontaneous.

GEMINI — Let it go already! What is in the past is in the past and it can't be changed. Trust yourself enough to feel comfortable with who you are and don't be so secretive to the point that no one knows the real you, "uncensored".

CANCER — You will be admired for your eccentricity. Pay close attention to your interactions with those who are close to you. There is spiritual purpose and inner growth involved with these relationships.

LEO — Don't fight the change that is about to occur in your life. It is time to let go of your excess baggage and stand up for your own personal happiness.

VIRGO — Lower your standards just enough for you to be able to let go of the stress that comes along with setting them too high. Your humorous ways will do wonders for you this month, you just might get exactly what you've been waiting for.

LIBRA — Emotional wounds from the past will be completely healed in due time. You will get all the attention you deserve if you come out of your shell of self-protection and begin to trust others more.

SCORPIO — Accentuate the positive! Allow the outer appearance that you portray to others to become reality in your private life as well. Don't allow your darker side to get the best of you.

SAGITTARIUS — Take control of your mood swings. They come from secret insecurities that will change with time. your desire to prove yourself may get the best of you, so focus on trying to reach more attainable goals and try to look at the "big picture".

CAPRICORN — This is a time when everything will seem too good to be true. Don't believe that! Enjoy your success and become a quiet authority in your trade. You will receive recognition for your brilliance.

AQUARIUS — Choose to follow your heart this month. Thinking too hard about anything is a waist of time when what your heart desires may be slipping away. Whatever goal you fix your sights on is promised to you, so go for it!

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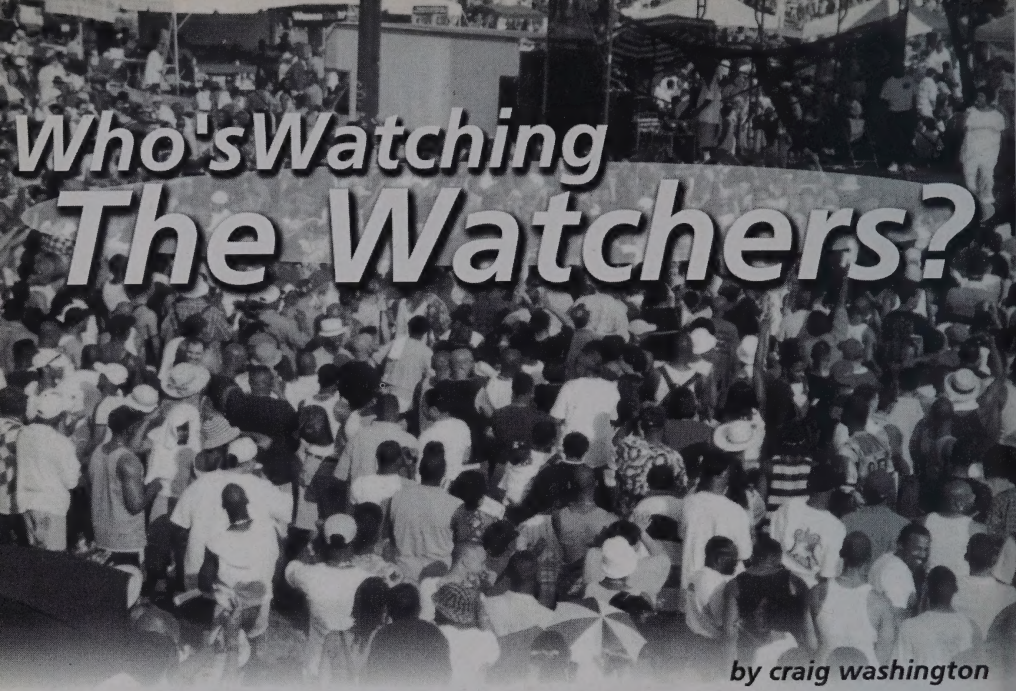


Who's Watching The Watchers?

by craig washington

Whatever Banneker Field couldn't hold was spilling out onto the sidewalks while various SUVs and sports cars locked down the surrounding streets. The invasion was in full force. Various species of polygendered, sgl, lesbigay folk flocked to the final perch of this migration. It was Black Pride Sunday, the last mass gathering of all the beautiful children who'd descended upon the capital. A live soundtrack of house, hiphop and reggae beats infused the air, scores of camcorders rolled to capture this vision of brown bodies, shaved heads, locks, loose drapings, tight shorts and less, and more. Anthony was thankful he was not home this weekend, since he would probably be manning a table amidst the throngs of Atlanta's finest. He and the other HIV prevention workers in town would have their hands full come Labor Day, so he wanted to make sure Memorial Day was no work and all play.

He had already been through the vendor village and scanned the bleachers twice before he finally spotted Simone. She was where she told him she'd be, at the big purple Imani Center tent. When he got close enough he started waving, but she was much too busy chatting up some woman who seemed quite fixated on Simone's words. He smiled to himself reflecting how she was such a natural charmer, one who attracted many sisters and brothers with her distinctive looks, style and activist convictions. He never had the fire in his belly for this work like she did. It was the only thing about her that made him jealous. He otherwise appreciated everything about her, especially the fact that she was ultra femme. There she was, holding court, so by the time he'd walked up on her, 2 more sistas were in her face. She was promoting some upcoming poetry slam when he finally caught her eye. She handed the women some flyers, quickly excused herself then ran from behind the table and wrapped Anthony in a luxurious hug. "Hey woman," he said. "You know I been looking all over for you and look at you, just working these poor sistas from all over the country." "Well, I know there's a world to save but a girl can't live on the revolution alone. Actually, these women are workin' me. Where's Scott?" He couldn't help but smile when she asked. Unlike several of his black friends, Simone always asked about Scott. They never talked about how she felt about him being with a white man for the past 3 years, but he knew she loved him enough to care about Scott. That was enough for him. I left him in the car at the corner with Saadika." "Saadika's here?" Simone was surprised, she'd heard a lot about Saadika without ever meeting her. "Yeah, can you believe it. You know with her, if it ain't a party or some ghetto fab soiree she ain't comin," he frowned. "Now, now" she said. "You know most of our community is not doing the out gay organizing thing!" "Yes, I know, all too well." "Stop pouting," she nudged him. "Let's hit it. You don't want to keep your sweetie waiting too long"

As they navigated through the crowd, Anthony felt a hand slide across his behind. He turned around quickly only to see a number of unfamiliar faces all paying him no mind. When he turned forward there was Nigel standing with arms folded and that wide-toothed grin of his. "Don't tease me like that, baby," Anthony said. Nigel held up both hands and pleaded, "I was just trying to show some love." Nigel was a good friend from Anthony's Morehouse years. Now a D.C. attorney, he was a

well-known donor who supported D.C. Pride and other black gay institutions across the country.

"Nigel, this is my girl Simone. She is the co-director of the Imani Women's Health Center. She's supposed to be doing outreach, but I caught her doin' some overtime, if you know what I mean." "Well," Nigel offered," there's all kinds of ways to reach out." Simone rolled her eye at Anthony. "Anyway," she said, "Anthony's told me some great things about you. We need more brothers like you to give more than lip service to this work." "Why thank you, Simone. So where are you all headed?" "Back to his hubbie," Simone cooed, nodding at Anthony. Three young men, more pretty than handsome, swaggered past them, one winked at Nigel and said "Whassup! " "Ooh and I just found mine," Nigel declared turning to behold his departing admirer.

"Now that's what I like about D.C. We have real boys for you. Not like those girls in Atlanta perpetrating." "Tell me bout it," Anthony agreed. "Atlanta is full of bottoms wearing top gear, meanwhile everybody's wanting to get done." "There aint nothing wrong with a man wanting to get fucked but I don't think he has to act like a woman," Simone added. "Personally I resent some of these flamboyant brothers. I think they take it a little too far." "You're right Simone, some of these so-called men are more woman than you!" "Now I don't know about all that," Simone laughed. "But that's one reason I like hanging with you Anthony. I don't have anything against queens, but I like being out with a masculine brother. You get more respect on the street." Nigel just couldn't let that go. "Now don't let me have to call you out. I know a certain person who definitely likes getting done every now and then." "Okay Nigel, I admit it. I do. But you don't see me butch one day, then nellie the next. Just because I'm gay doesn't mean I have to follow some stereotype. It seems to me if more gay men acted more like men we would be more accepted. "

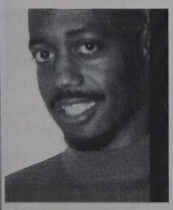
"This is your target population, isn't it.?," Nigel pointed out. "Sure is. I tell you it would make my job a lot easier if these brothers would stop whoring around and start loving themselves more." "Here, here," Nigel affirmed. "Okay but, how do you do that?," Simone asked. Nigel and Anthony both looked perplexed. " You know, love yourself. Everybody from Oprah to Chante Moore talks about this loving yourself stuff, so I wanna know, what does that look like? Where do you start?" "I don't know," Anthony began, sounding irked. "Getting into yourself. Not looking for a relationship to do it for you, reading an Iyanla Vanzant book." "Well, what if I can't read that type of writing?" "Then you need to take a remedial course," Nigel snorted. "There's no excuse to be poor and dumb." Simone shook her head, wanting to change the subject she'd just brought up. Nigel caught her gesture and went to explaining himself. "Oh, don't mind me at all. I'm just totally allergic to poverty." Simone shot back, "Well you might want to take something for that, since this is Chocolate City and not everybody gets to work on the Hill."

"Where are you guys staying?", Nigel asked, ignoring Simone's comment. He was one of those composed queens who would not let anyone see his plummage ruffled. "With a friend, Saadika." "Do I know her?" "No." Nigel didn't push it but after a long pause Anthony added, "She's really Scott's friend." He gave a polite smile. "She's not, shall we say, my type." "Well, of course not, she's, well, a 'she'," Simone laughed. "No, I mean she's one of those hardcore types, you know what I mean, no make-up, flat shoes forever, just very dykey." "Well you know," Simone added, "Some sisters especially the older ones are into that role-playing stuff." "Yeah well just because you're a lesbian, doesn't mean you have to give up being a lady. I mean there isn't anything feminine about her." "And what's so terrible about that?" Nigel asked. "Never mind," Anthony answered. He seemed annoyed at the question. Simone focused her eyes then smiled, "There they are" Nigel was a little apprehensive but he asked anyway. "If you don't mind, I'd like to tag along with you all," Nigel said to Anthony. Anthony tried to sound enthused. "Sure, we need to catch up anyway."

Scott and Saadika were too caught up in their own conversation to notice them until Simone knocked on the window where Scott was sitting. This startled him which amused Nigel. Anthony waved and flashed a Colgate smile for Saadika to open the door. He heard Nigel say something to Simone then she answered, "No, he's not like that. He's okay." Anthony felt nauseous. He wanted to say something, to tell Nigel that Scott was not every white racist he met, but he didn't want to escalate things. More from what Nigel didn't say than what he did, Anthony knew Nigel didn't like him being with a white man. He thought it best to let things be. After introductions were made, Simone suggested the poetry slam at Sistaspace, a gallery owned by a black lesbian couple. Nigel hesitated but she explained that the gallery is owned by women and open to everyone. "You mean, just like all those galleries men own? " Saadika added.

Simone sat up front with Saadika and they swapped opinions about the Pride activities. Nigel was strategically wedged between Scott and Anthony. Anthony was trying not to be too obvious about observing Simone and Saadika. He hoped Saadika would not make some tacky play for his friend. "So Scott is it?" Nigel began. "Is this your first DC Black Gay Pride." "Yes it is and I'm having a ball" "I guess you are," Nigel smirked.

Continues On Page 29



written by senior staff writer
Craig Washington atlanta, ga.

Standing Outside The Fire

By: Andrew Marcellus

I must have resembled a lunatic. There I was, on the last night of my summer vacation, and in less than twenty-four hours, I would be back in Atlanta. Right back to where we were when I left, with me standing outside the fire. The night air gave no justification for the goose flesh that was beginning to spread from my arms to my back. Standing there bare chested, muscles flexed, eyes fixated and breath bated, I had not realized the temperature until the rivers of sweat began to pour stinging waves into the corners of my eyes. A victim of involuntary paralysis, I watched as the hot colors, the reds, oranges and yellows, danced around what had been my prized possessions. Influenced by either emotion or pyre--I can't remember--my eyes began to water as I sped through the familiar lines. I watched them disappear one by one--every card, letter, poem, and memento even the ticket stub I'd saved from the Fox. I saw the words and images that once gave me so much happiness crumple and whither. The luminous pile in my parents' garage began to physically manifest the dark lies and black irony that was the basis and the final spin of our relationship. Everything was there. Everything except the photo. My grip was tight and I wondered if I had the strength to really let go.

You probably don't even remember me taking it. It was at your graduation party. You're wearing the Donna Karan blazer you bought in New York during spring break. We talked every night that week. The brown and olive tweed blend looked so good next to your skin. Even in spite of the alcohol-induced scarlet frames, your eyes are a perfect russet hue. People sit at the tables behind you. They dance on the floor beside you. They move all around

you, but in the midst of people, food, liquor, music, lights, dark, and decorations, all I can see is you.

The blazer perfectly matches the thin olive turtleneck you are wearing. I close my eyes and feel the fabric prickle my face as we kissed. It was a perfect match, just like us, but there are so many things I regret. Mostly I regret falling in love with that smile. You smiled so much that night. Perfect smile. Perfect teeth. Perfect lips. Your smile is the whole of the photo. As always, it kept the room ablaze.

You always smile when you sing. The only thing missing in the photo is your voice. Even though you drank about a quarter of the huge bottle of vodka you're so proudly brandishing, you sang to me all the way home. That night in the car, you did the three things you do best. You sang. Damn, sometimes I wonder if the liquor doesn't make you sound even better than usual. You directed your invisible choir. I love to watch you conduct. When you get really excited and the music swells and goes all through your body, and on those Sundays when the choir has really prepared their music and projects like crazy, your shirt comes untucked, you break a sweat and your eyes get as bright and big as new money. Seeing you with your music excites me like fireworks to a child. But the thing you did better than all of that, the thing you mastered that night, and many others like it-- was lie. You lied to me about how much you loved me. That, my baby, my perfect love, my booskie... It is that that you do so incredibly well. You did it with words, ways, in speech and in poetry. Hell, you could even do it in three languages, and I believed you and matched your declarations one hundred fold.

What I couldn't see in the photo was a person who falls in and out of love with the seasons. I didn't see a person who truly meant well, but couldn't give me the love and attention that I needed and deserved. It doesn't show me where you were when I called and you weren't there. That perfect smiling mouth has an answer for every question except, "How do I let you go?" I stood there with your photo in my hand and looked into your eyes, and I did what I knew I had to do before I came back to Atlanta. I saved my life. I saved my self respect. I saved my self esteem. I saved the last bit of me that I had left after an entire summer of wondering why the calls and the letters stopped. I looked at that perfect skin, soft wavy hair, and sweet loving face, and said goodbye.

I must have resembled a lunatic standing there: bare chested, muscles flexed, eyes fixated, and breath bated. But I did it. I let it go. I let you and that perfect image go. I watched the reds, oranges and yellows swallow up the smile and the sorrows that I had been foolishly trying to hold on to for much too long. I watched the ends curl up and the sparkle in your alcohol-induced red eyes turn to a luminous blaze. And for the first time, in a long time, it felt good to be standing outside the fire.

Who's Watching .. Continued From Page 27

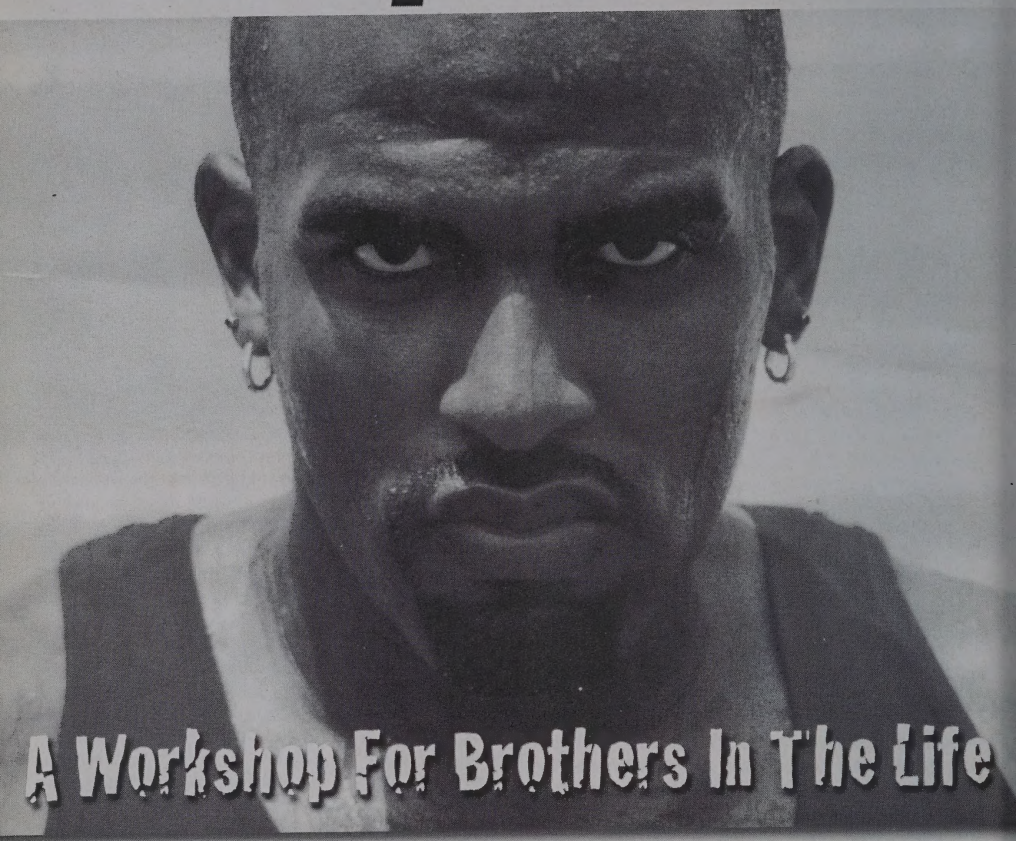
Scott pretended not to notice. "At first," he said "I didn't think it was appropriate for me to even be here. But I wanted to experience this with Anthony." He took Anthony's hand in his. "We usually do the regular Pride in June. "You mean the White Pride," Nigel said. It was not a question. Anthony stopped himself from coming to the rescue. "Well I wouldn't call it White Pride, since it's for everybody. Actually, if anybody is being separatist it's Black Pride." "Oh really" Nigel' voice leapt into falsetto. "Sure, I mean the Pride folks have done a lot to make it a diverse event." "Oh please, Scott. Tell me who sits on the board of Pride, a multiracial group or white people." "Well, white people" "And who comprises the staff?" "I know where you're going with this." "Good, I'm so glad you do. White people, that's who. And that's who that Pride is for, has always been for. Excuse me, the regular Pride. For all those regular white people."

"That's it," Anthony blurted. I'm so tired of black people criticizing whites for not being inclusive enough while they sit on their collective ass." "They?" Saadika said out loud to no one in particular. It went past Anthony. "Most of them couldn't spell 'out' or think about marching, at least in the daytime, if you paid them. I've spent the last 5 years trying to save the lives of men who don't give a shit about themselves and frankly, that's not the white man's fault." Scott sighed out loud. Nigel waved his hand high as if praying for some self-control. They pulled up in front of the gallery in silence. Saadika let everyone out first, so that she could go find a parking space. Simone offered to stay with her while the guys went on ahead.

As they pulled out Simone asked, "So what do you think about all that?" "All what?," Saadika joked. "I try not to get caught up in all that stuff you know. Hey, I'm bout livin my life. I ain't trying to make no waves or wave no banners neither." "But what if everybody thought like that. We wouldn't have any progress" "Who said I'm trying to be everybody. I'm just one sister in the world, sister! Seems to me like some people need to check themselves before they go trying to fix other people." Simone wanted to challenge her, ask her why she would not get involved in activist work. It seemed like so many sisters she knew had an opinion, but would never get up and do something. She decided to leave well enough alone. She was enjoying this space without the guys around. She realized how different Saadika was from the way Anthony described her. There was nothing "hardcore" about this woman. She was definitely butch, a soft butch, sure, but butch no doubt. Her voice was a warm raspy sound, her smooth skin framed by rows of short tight locks. As Saadika spoke she wanted to count them with her fingertips one by one. There must have been thousands.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.

we go deep



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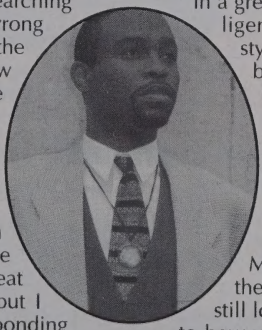
NubianSpirit

Finding Love:

by Darryl!

In my last writing I promised to address the area of finding love. In my life-work I find that most people say they want to be in love, have love and get love. Rarely do we hear people saying they want to give love. So often we find ourselves searching for love, "in the wrong places" and with "the wrong people." How do we determine that what we are looking for is not present before us? Recently I had an experience where a wonderful person was interested in me and we had a great growing friendship but I was too slow in responding to the possibilities and I lost out on a "good thing." Suffice it to say we are still good friends (possibly better than before) but the reason for the impasse was that I was interested in someone else who was not willing or able to offer what I wanted or needed at the time. So instead of recognizing that what I wanted was directly in front of me (presented in a great package of intelligence, beauty, and style) I overlooked it because this was not the person I wanted to be hearing or getting these "vibes" from. How sad for me.



Moreover, despite these experiences we still look for the answers to how we find love. Over and over again we have been confronted with the notion of "what you put out is what returns to you." Sometimes we think that because we are not getting what we think we are putting out that somehow the principle is flawed, but it is not. Think of it this way- What you get is what you really want. In other words, finding love is in direct relationship to your being the love you seek. What does that mean? Well, it's a good thing you asked. It means in order to find love you must first give love. You want a mate who will be accepting, patient, kind, trustworthy, honest, have a good job, have their own residence, or any of the other material accoutrements of success then YOU must first possess and freely give those qualities you seek to attract.

Rather than looking for love (or what ever else you want) just BE

Continues On Page 32

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Nubian Spirit Continued From Page 31

love. Love will then find you by aligning itself to you. Like attracts like. You remember the adage "misery loves company" then realize that love loves company, too. If you find yourself constantly in dead end relationships or friendships then look inward and uncover what you are aligning yourself with and why. Confront those demons and empty the baggage of negative self-worth, hopelessness, or defeatism and get yourself some new traveling clothes. Put on the cloak of positivity- shielding yourself with hope from the darts of negativism and hatred fired on you by the world and those around you. Dress your feet with stick-to-it-ness, refusing to get bogged down in the muck and filth of distrust, greed, or lack. Wear the pants of power, believing that you can have what you want and need the most. And adorn your chest with the shirt of fruitfulness- attracting to yourself what you are most in your heart and soul.

My sisters and brothers, finding love is the easy part. The hard part is accepting who we are and loving ourselves enough to BE what we most want in our lives. Take care of yourself and remember "Live in love and let love live in you, through you, and around you." Peace and blessings.

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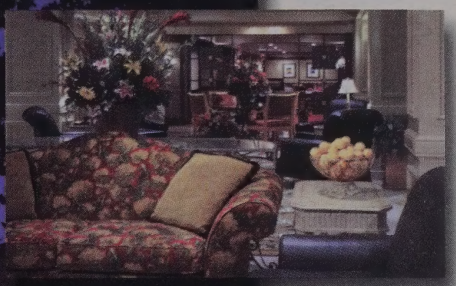

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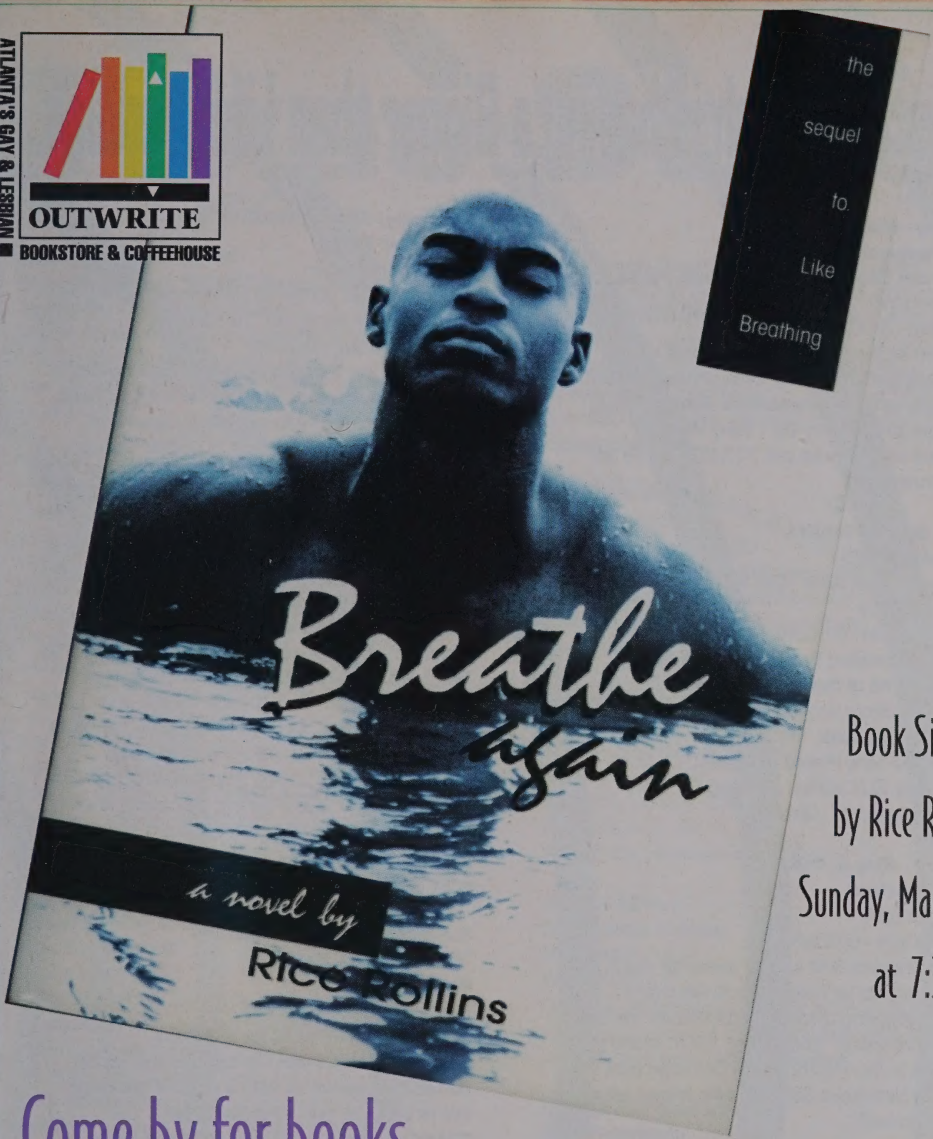

Book Signing
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Houston Splash is having a Bigger than Life Wedding...

Thursday - May 4, 2000
"The Engagement"
3rd Annual Strip Down -N- HTown Party
Place: Incognito
Time: 9pm - 3:00am
Come see as the country's finest male and female strippers battle for cash prizes. Hosted by the Atlanta's own **Dominique Rashad** along with music provided by **DJ - Tony Powell**. Interested contestants call 713.237.9431 for more information.

Friday - May 5, 2000
"The Rehearsal"
Houston Splash Kick - Off Party
Place: Incognito
Time: 10:00pm - 4:00am
The Official Houston Splash Kick - Off Party featuring some of the hottest male and female entertainers from around the country with your host **Cookie LaCook**. Plus, two dance floors featuring DJ Tony Powell - Houston, DJ Chris - Los Angeles, DJ Cedrick - DC and DJ Steve "Miggedy Maestro" - Chicago.

Saturday - May 6, 2000
"The Reception"
Place: SKYBAR
Time: 4:00pm - 8:00pm
Houston Splash's first annual event for the 21 and up crowd to be held at Scott Gertner's SKYBAR featuring the most spectacular view in the city of Houston. Located at 3400 Montrose Boulevard, in the Penthouse!!! Come be part of Houston's Best Kept SECRET, who knows what you might miss!!

Saturday - May 6, 2000
"Bachelor Party"
Place: The Hangar
Located on the corner of Roberts and Polk, 6 blocks from Incognito The Club
Time: 10:00pm - 4:00am
Just when you thought Houston Splash couldn't get any hotter we hit you with yet another twist. What do you get when you mix 3 Queens of Comedy, 2 rooms of music, 10 Exotic Dancers and 5,000 Men? **One Hell of a "Bachelor Party!"** Representing the Dirty South, (wearing your grandma's best church hat) the lovely talented **Sophia McIntosh**. Coming to you from the East Coast, sporting a new PRADA bag and boots (from Milan not NY) the hilarious **Harmonica Sunbeam**. Making her first appearance at Houston Splash the one, the only, **THEA VIDAL**, like you never seen her before, sporting new hair and attitude for the gods. And of course, no Bachelor Party would be complete without some of the nations finest **Exotic Dancers** for your tipping enjoyment. Show time will begin at 11:00pm sharp. If comedy doesn't tickle your fancy, perhaps 2 rooms of music pumping Deep House, Hip-Hop and that unforgettable Southern Bounce will!!

Saturday - May 6, 2000
"Bachelorette Party"
Place: Incognito
Time: 10:00pm - 4:00am
Well finally an event fit for a QUEEN,
Our first Bachelorette Party to hit the scene!
So Ladies impress us with a dress if you dare,
We're going to give a Formal Affair,
"Studs" I know you like your caps and boots,
But why not leave them home and try a suit.
You've asked for this event, lets make it a blast!
Don't make this party our first and last.
Paging Dallas, Chicago and Ladies of the Night,
Pay Houston a visit, it will be worth your flight!!!
Your host and emcee for the evening Ms. Cookie LaCook along with a Flawless Cabaret featuring some of the top male and female entertainers from across the nation, along with a elegant buffet.

Texas Style!

Sunday - May 7, 2000
Houston Splash "2000" Beach Party
Sponsored by: Houston Splash
Place: Stewart Beach in Galveston (Just follow I-45 South until you hit water...)
The moment we've all been waiting for "THE BEACH PARTY.

Sunday - May 7, 2000
"The Wedding"
Southern Diva/Stripper Extravaganza Party
Place: Incognito
Time: 3:00pm - 3:00am
Come witness a marriage that has lasted the test of time with your emcee **Cookie LaCook** and Chicago's own "Heavy Diva" **Otis Mack**, along with the countries best Male/Female Performers. But why have one wedding when you can have two, "Who will be crowned Mr. & Mrs. Hot BODY 2000!!! (Best Male, Female and Female Impersonator) Show time will begin at 10:00pm sharp! The patio will be open for your dancing enjoyment with go-go gods from across the country and music provided by DJ Dick - Canada.

Monday - May 8, 2000
"The Honeymoon"
Place: Incognito
Time: 10:00pm - 3:00am
Honeymoon according to "Webster", is a period of harmony immediately following marriage! Now you know it is all about finally being able to do the nasty all night long... and that's exactly what we plan to do, during **"The HONEYMOON!"** Featuring The Hot Body Revue. Hosted by Cookie LaCook with special guest Rande Rochelle.

VIP Splash Passes are available to all the Houston Splash Sponsored Events in and around Houston Texas. Members will be automatically entered into various raffles throughout Houston Splash, and of course, **membership allows you to bypass the long lines****. VIP Splash Pass is only $60 payable by cashier's check and/or money order to:

Incognito The Club
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Houston, Texas 77235
Sorry no checks or credit cards accepted
VIP membership doesn't bypass club and/or venue capacity rules and regulations, so get there early

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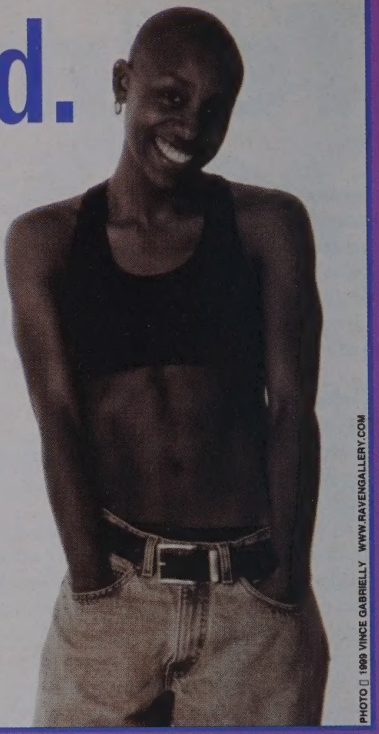

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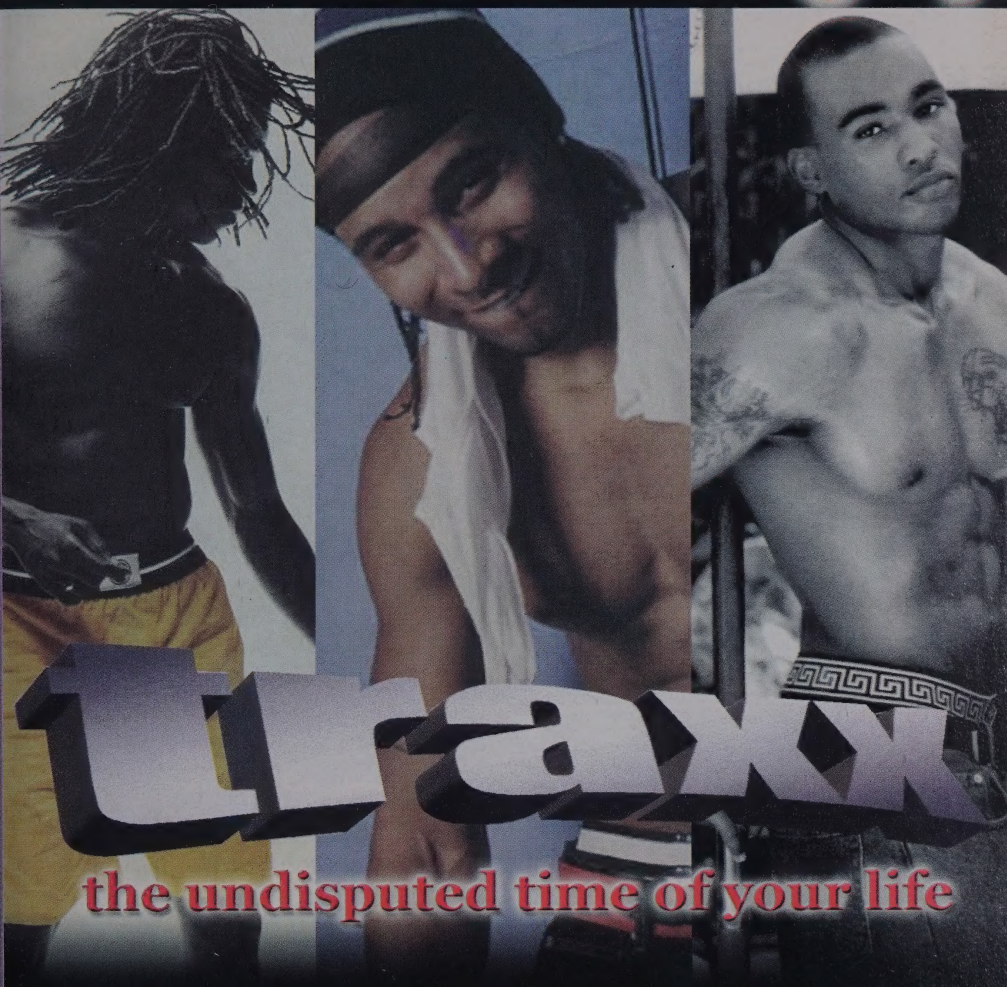

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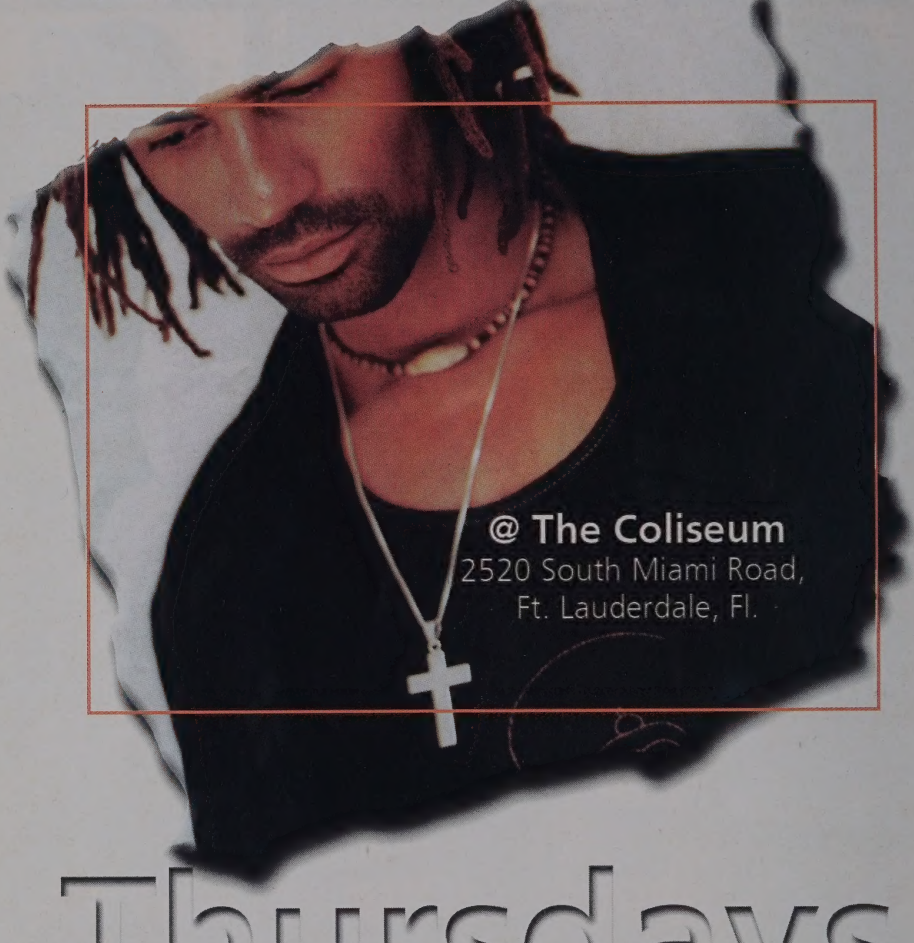

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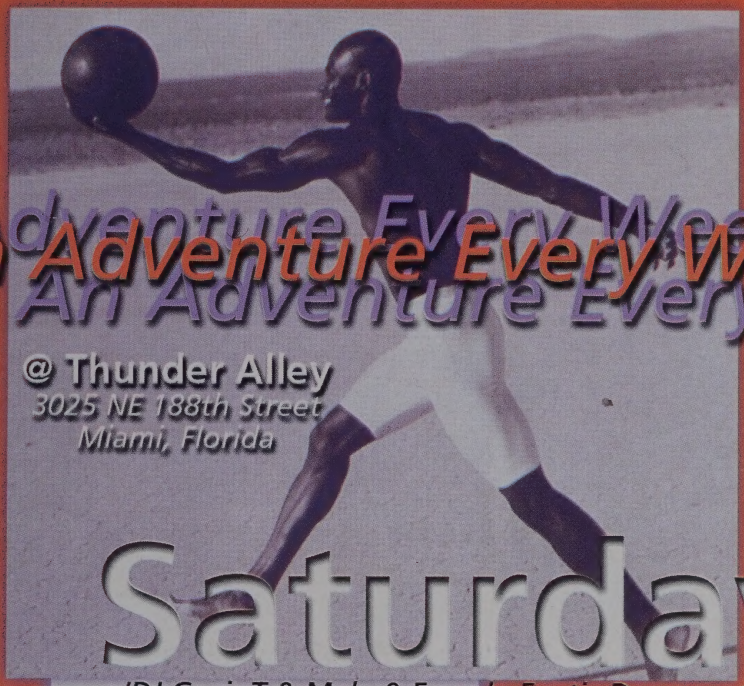

Saturdays

w/DJ GavinT & Male & Female Exotic Dancers

MARCH 4TH

Lost Boyz Night

- $5 Admission until 12:30
- Drink Specials Until 1am
- $100 Dance-off Competition

MARCH 11TH

Girlz Night Out

- $5 Admission until 12:30
- Drink Specials Until 1am
- $100 Sexy Underwear Contest

MARCH 18TH

St. Patricks Day Celebration

- $5 Admission until 2:30

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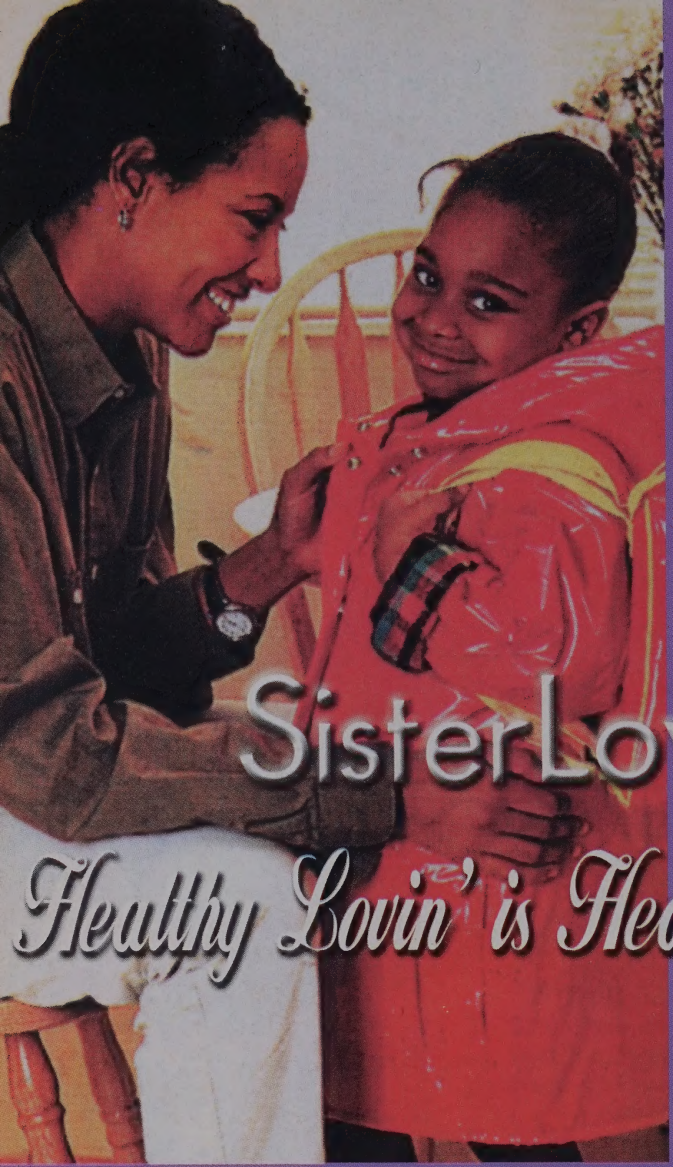

About SisterLove:

SisterLove Is an Atlanta HIV/AIDS organization serving the specific needs of women and their children. Founded July 1989 by Da'zon Dixon, and a dedicated group of volunteers, determined to make a difference in the lives of women infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

SisterLove currently serves over 200 HIV+ women and their families with a variety of services and coordinated care with other agencies.

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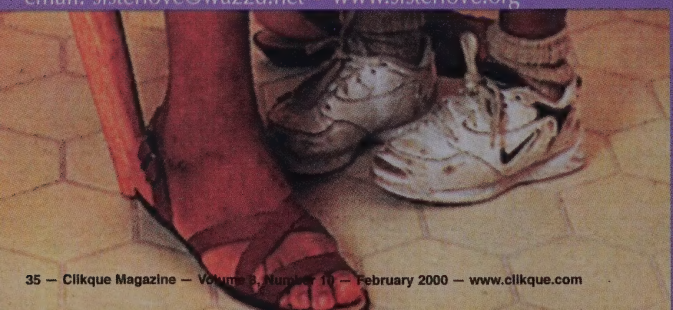
Brothas and sistas can get involved by volunteering. We are currently looking for domestic partners for our International Health Project "WHARP", A pilot project with Positive Women's Network located in South Africa. For more information call 404-753-7733



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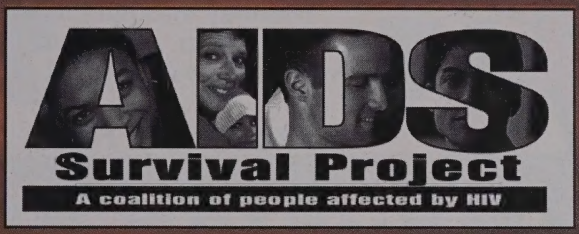

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- Food Bank
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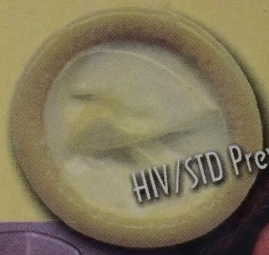
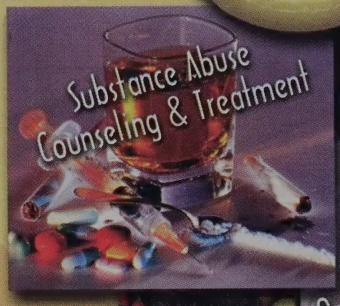
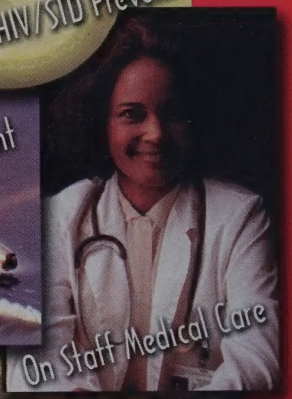
- PAWS Program (pets)
- Emergency Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Children's Program
- Support Groups
- HIV Testing
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Caregiver / Family Support Services
- Preventive Case Management







OUR TIME HAS COME TO...

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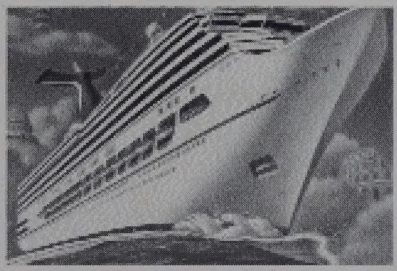
7 Day Cruise to Puerto Rico

October 28 — November 4, 2000



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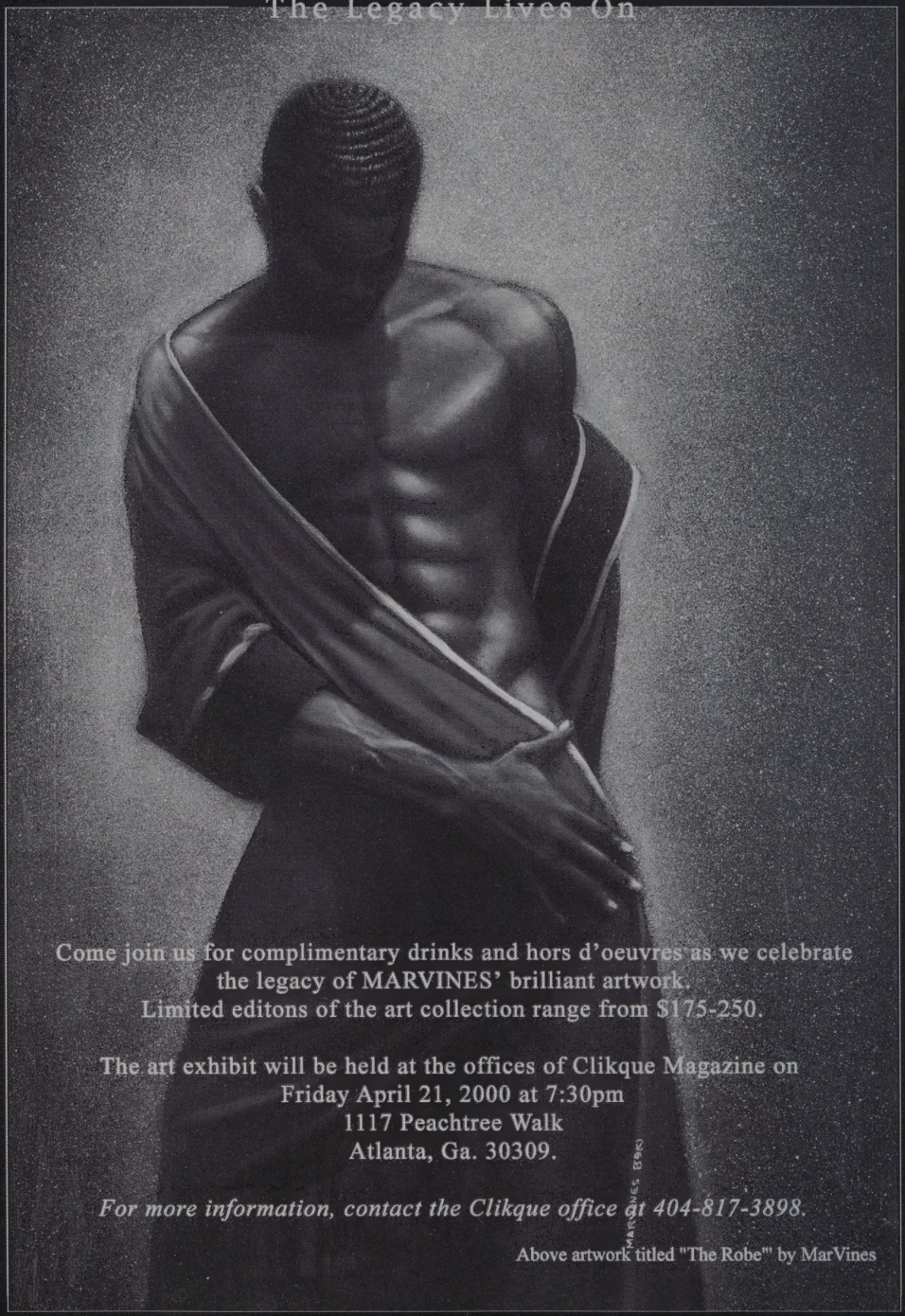
The Legacy Lives On



Come join us for complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres as we celebrate the legacy of MARVINES' brilliant artwork.
Limited editons of the art collection range from $175-250.

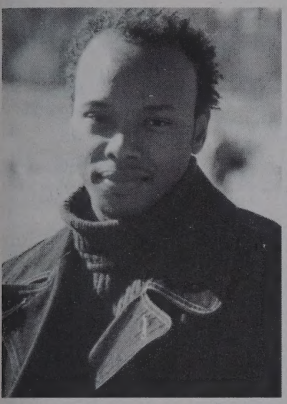
The art exhibit will be held at the offices of Clikque Magazine on
Friday April 21, 2000 at 7:30pm
1117 Peachtree Walk
Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

For more information, contact the Clikque office at 404-817-3898.

Above artwork titled "The Robe"' by MarVines

CLIKQUE EVENTS

Clikque Magazine



Greetings Clikque Readers !!!

Come join us in New Orleans this month as we hold a launch party featuring Terryl Lynn-Foxx/Miss Clikque America & Tim Bolhar / Mr. Clikque America. The festivities will be held at CLUB WOLFENDALES on March 17th, 2000. Look for details in the New Orleans launch party advertisement.

Be on the lookout next month for Clikque Magazine's Anniversary weekend celebration starting off with a fabulous art exhibit featuring art work by the late Marvin Vines on April 21, 2000. On the following day Clikque will be giving its official anniversary party at TRAXX NIGHTCLUB/April 22, 2000. See you There!
JAMES MARTIN, EVENTS MANAGER

CLIKQUE WORLD CALENDER: Clikque wants to know what is going on around the nation. Please let us know about special events, regular events/meetings/support groups, and other happenings and "going's-on" in your town, city, state, or organization.

SUBMISSIONS: Clikque is always interested in submissions of stories, poetry, articles, or excerpts from you our readers and sponsors. Your submission can be considered for publication at anytime from the date we receive it. If you include contact information we will let you know when, and if, your work will be published. Our editor will also respond to every submission, published or not. The deadline for submissions for time sensitive materials is the 2nd Thursday of each month, for publication in the following month's issue. Clikque reserves the right to publish or refuse to publish any materials submitted.

Forward Calender information or Submissions material to our copy editor, Darryl! , at Clikque Magazine to our office via e-mail or snail mail. Materials can be sent typed and printed, on 3.5 disk in Simple Text, MSWord, or Wordperfect, or via e-mail: Clikquem@aol.com. For more information or instructions contact our office.

March 17th — New Orleans, La
Magazine Launch Party

April 21 — Atlanta, Ga.
Anniversary Party / Atlanta

May 4-7 — Houston,Tx
Splash/Anniversary Pool Party

May 26-29, Washington DC
DC. Pride (Memorial Day Wknd)

June 9-11, Tampa, Fl
Tampa Jamz 2000 (Beach Party)

June 16-18, Memphis, TN
Memphis Pride - Party

June 30-July 2,, New York, NY
New York Pride - Party

July 7-9 Chicago, IL
Chicago Pride - Pool Party

July 14-16, Detroit, Mi
Detroit Pride - Pool Party

August 6, Atlanta, Ga.
CLIKQUE FIERCE AWARDS

September 1-4
Atlanta Pride - A Surprise

October 29, Atlanta, Ga
Queens of Comedy Revue

November 19, Atlanta, Ga.
CLIKQUE FASHION SHOW

December 15, Atlanta, Ga.
CLIKQUE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Other events are also scheduled, details to follow. If you would like to be on our... ***MAILING LIST*** Visit Us At

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or send us an email to clikquem@aol.com

MISS CLIKQUE AMERICA
2000
Terryl-Lynn Foxx
Clikque America Pageantry System
CAPS

TRANS - CENTRAL STATION

Monthly Column By Teryl-Lynn Foxx, Miss Clikque America 2000

I am Teryl-Lynn Foxx of New Orleans, the newly crowned Miss Clikque America. Upon winning the title, I have been given the opportunity to write a monthly column and address an issue of concern to me. Being a member of the transgendered community, I am deeply concerned about misconceptions regarding transgendered persons. In the forthcoming months, I hope to clarify some of these misconceptions.

I will not use this column to provide hair and makeup tips, the do's and don'ts of perfecting the art of illusion and female impersonation, or information regarding forthcoming pageants or show events.

The main thrust of this column will be to educate the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered community regarding what has been termed the transgendered phenomenon. Through education comes understanding, and from understanding comes acceptance. We all want to be accepted, by our families, friends, and society as a whole. That covers the entire population, not just transgenders.

I do not see my charter from the publisher as a license to embroil the magazine and its readers in a brouhaha regarding inequities experienced by transgenders. Controversies such as the stalemate between various TG organizations and TG activists and the Human Rights Committee's failure to include TGs in either its mission statement or ENDA legislative efforts are better addressed in other forums by persons better qualified than I am to address these important issues. That is not my forte and I gratefully acknowledge the efforts of these dedicated activists.

Our special transgendered community is made up of different individuals with as many varied needs as there are individuals. Even within the transgendered community, we have factions that seem to be at odds with other factions over what comprises a transgendered person.

There are pre-ops, post-ops, and even non-ops. To put it succinctly, if you still have "it," the politically correct term is pre-operative; if "it" is gone, you're post-operative; and if you have no need or desire for sexual reassignment surgery, then you're non-operative. Confusing? You bet—even to those of us in the transgendered community. But, regardless of one's op status, we are all sisters, seeking the same happiness and respect.

I would hope that in some way my columns would unite the transgendered community in its commonality, to educate all segments of that community regarding the particular needs of each segment of the community. In addition, I would hope that other members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community will come to know who and what transgendered people are and extend to us the respect and acceptance we seek.

You may be wondering "Who is Teryl-Lynn Foxx and why is she Miss Clikque?" I have been a transgendered person since my early twenties. I live 7 and 24 as a woman. I am not a man in a dress for sexual gratification. I am a woman.
Some of you may have seen me performing on the gay cabaret circuit, particularly in the southeast section of our country. You may have also seen me competing in many female illusion pageants. I have been fortunate to have won many titles and crowns, including the recent Miss Clikque pageant. I have also appeared on several television shows, the most recent being The Morry Povich Show. I am a college graduate, have taught high school, and have worked in the business world. I am no different from thousands of others, except I now have the honor of being Miss Clikque and writing this column. To learn more about me, visit my webpage at www.gayamerica.com/teryllynnfoxx/.

I hope everybody will find the column enlightening, entertaining, and informative. If you have any specific questions or would like information on the transgendered life and its community, please write to me at the magazine, or e-mail me at clikquem@aol.com, and I will attempt to bring understanding.

Endless love,
Teryl-Lynn

About Our Queen

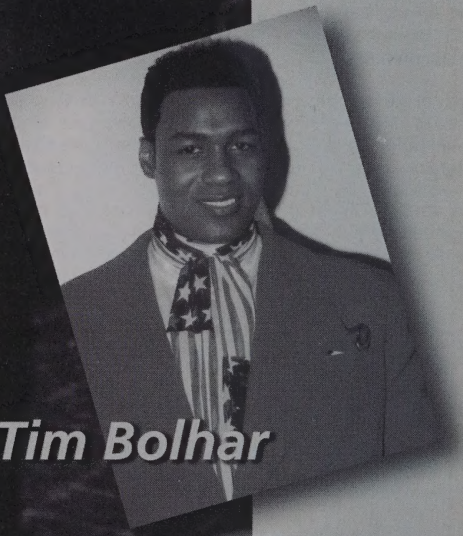
Born under the astrological sign of Leo the Lion, Teryl-Lynn Foxx, the current Miss Clikque America, began life in New Orleans as Terry Sanders. At birth, the attending physician told Teryl-Lynn's parents that this was a "special" child, a statement that has been proven true time and time again.

A graduate of the University of New Orleans with a bachelor's degree in Speech Education, Teryl-Lynn was a high school teacher in the New Orleans school system. However, as a devotee' and practitioner of the art of female illusion, Teryl-Lynn left the teaching profession to devote her time, energy, and talent to perfecting her art. For the past twenty years Teryl-Lynn has developed as a performer, and has achieved recognition as a female illusion star. Miss Foxx has twice been named Entertainer of the Year in New Orleans and was given a Lifetime Achievement Award in appreciation of her many efforts in promoting the art of female illusion.

As a member of the New Orleans gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, Teryl-Lynn has been active in many fundraisers for the community and AIDS causes. She has been a volunteer at a local AIDS hospice and is currently involved with the Metropolitan Community Church's Living Room Program. Teryl-Lynn also serves on the Board of Directors of the New Orleans Gay Appreciation Awards.

An avowed champion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights, Teryl-Lynn has participated in various activities to promote such rights. As a transgendered person personally familiar with the emotional trauma endured by that community, Teryl-Lynn will use her monthly column in Clikque Magazine to inform and educate our readers on the specialness of transgenders.

Mr. Clikque America 2000



Tim Bolhar

Clikque America Pageantry System
CAPS

Crusade For The Children

Monthly Column By Tim Bolhar, Mr. Clikque America 2000

I am a product of Chicago, I was a very small child, born and reared in a small community known as Cabrini Green, in Chicago. Cabrini Green was poverty stricken, drug infested and racked with gang violence. As I became a teenager I knew deep down inside that I was destined for greatness and in order for me to succeed I had to protect my life from harm's way. I had to get an education and occupation. I spent time visiting my wise elders and friends who inspired me and encouraged me to keep a level head. Over time I began to realize that I had a passion for children, especially those in poverty stricken situations, who have suffered terrible abuse, been involved with gangs or otherwise disenfranchised. Thus began my Crusade for the Children.

I began my crusade working for the State of Illinois at the Marrguill Academy, a child care agency under the direct auspices of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Specifically, my job allowed me to serve as an educator and motivational leader. I was enthused because I was given the opportunity to realize my passion to help these young people become independent, responsible, and respectable adults. These children, who had been abandoned by parents, abused (mentally, physically, and sexually), or neglected had suffered trying to make it in life with little or no direction. To say that the children were angry would be an understatement; this anger would often erupt in violent episodes that interfered with any hope or opportunity the children may have had of having a sane existence.

I began to see my crusade as a gift from God, and recognized it as my Christian duty to offer light, love, and life to these children. They had to find a way to respect themselves and respect others so that their moral character would be strong so that in the future they too could crusade for the next generation of children. I accept the fact that it takes a village to raise a child but these children are a part of that village and they will be needed to carry the light on to the next lineage of children. They will become this village's next rolemodels. The question is what will we allow them to learn to be a rolemodel?

These children, here in Chicago and there, wherever you are, need our help. It takes more than just their families it takes all of us to make a difference in their young lives. So as we go boldly into this millennium- this new beginning- let us show our concern for our babies by educating, motivating, and supporting the fruitful exploration of their minds' potential. This is what I believe. This is what I live for. This is my Crusade for the Children. Crusade2000.

About Our King

Tim was born and reared in the City of Chicago, the middle child of eleven (11) brothers and sisters. Tim started modeling with a small group, Adam and the Paper Dolls as a child. Years later he auditioned and joined a modeling tour group The Vogue Estq*** Models of Chicago. Tim's success was a surprise for him and his family as he hit the runways of 80 Fashion Shows in 3 1/2 months. Tim toured with this group for over three years eventually developing a name for himself as a designer, as well.

Tim began designing a line of men's wear, Lebolh's Designs, in 1986; that same year he began modeling for Johnson Hair Products. In 1990, Tim, became a production model for Durham Hair Products, doing many poster ads and fashion spreads. In 1995 Tim's television appearances included the Jenny Jones Show and Leeza. In that same year, Tim, became a creative stage director and model for Revlon. Tim won the title of Mr. Black Universe 1996-97 and four years later is the first Mr Clikque America 2000). Tim is working hard to be the #1 male entertainer with his commanding performances, appearance and personality, and elegant style. Tim currently works daily with Chicago's youth, models for Revlon, runs his own fashion company and does fashion shows around the country. Tim Bolhar, your current reigning, Mr. Clikque America 2000.

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CLIKQUE ON EROTICA

Clikque Magazine

Part IX

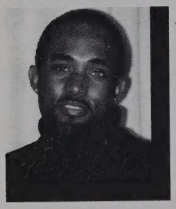
Door "655"

Here it is guys, another hot episode. Last month, you found out how freaky Uncle Wes could be. William, thinking that he would find an angry Craig at his uncles house, instead finds something that he wasn't quite ready for. Yes, his Uncle Wes is hosting a sex party. Men are everywhere, having sex. The scene is too much for William, so he gets the hell out of Dodge. He returns home only to find an intoxicated Craig at his door step. All that Craig could say was that he needed William. For what? Anyway, the story picks up here where William helps Craig to his feet and into his apartment.

William led Craig back to his bedroom. Craig continued to cry and mumble as he laid on William's shoulder.

"Come on man, Come on Craig, its alright man. Come on!" William said as he opened his door. He laid Craig across his bed. Craig continued to mumble and sob. William untied his shoes and pulled each one off. Craig was jelly in his hands. He started to unbutton his shirt. Suddenly, Craig jerked up, with tears in his eyes.

"I'm sorry William. I'm so fucking sorry William. I need you. I need you William.."



written by senior staff writer
Queshan Hayes atlanta, ga.

"Come on Craig. Relax," he said as he gently pushed him back down. He then undid his pants and pulled them down. He didn't realize that Craig's body was just as nice as his; smaller, but just as nice. He paused for a moment. He shook his head when he realized that he was standing there admiring another man's body. His heart began to beat faster as the view of Craig's body took his mind back to the orgy scene that he had just experienced.

"What the fuck is wrong with me?" he questioned as he turned to walk away. He began to close his door, but stopped and took one last look at Craig laying there in boxer briefs and nothing else.

"Why do you need me, Craig?" he said to himself as he closed the door. He walked out into the living room. He sat down on his couch and took off his shoes. He made himself comfortable as he reached for the sheet at he end of the couch. He clicked on the television. In a matter of minutes he was asleep.

****

How he knew where William's bathroom was, he did not know. He just knew that he had to piss. He stood there in front of the toilet and just let it flow. Finishing up, he washed his hands and flipped the light off. He decided to see if William was awake. He opened the bedroom door and made his way down the hall. There was William, sprawled across the couch. One of his legs was drooped over the edge. The sheet was at his waist and covered him to his ankles. He had taken off his shirt and Craig stood there looking over him admiring each and every cut of his chiseled chest. The only light came from the television, casting shadows throughout the room. Craig walked over to turn it off.

"Don't do that," said William as Craig froze from fear. "I'm watchin' that," he said in a sexy baritone voice.

"Oh, I'm sorry, William.. I thought you were asleep."

"Nope, I'm wide awake. Look!" he said as he dramatically threw the sheet off to reveal that he was butt ass naked. His dick was hard as a steel pole and pointed straight up.

"Yep, I'm wide awake, and...and...so is he," he said as he licked his lips, looked down towards his dick, and then looked at Craig dead in the eyes. Craig could not believe this was happening. His heart began to beat uncontrollably, his mouth got dry, and his own dick began to grow.

"Come here, Craig," William said as he began to stroke his dick. "I'm not what you need. This is what you need, Craig. Come on, man. It will be our little secret. Come here, boy."

Craig could not control himself. He immediately walked over to the couch and knelt between it and the coffee table. He put his hand over William's and began to help him stroke that huge dick with his other hand and he cupped William's balls and rubbed his slightly hairy inner thighs. William opened his legs wider to feel the complete sensation of Craig's warm hands. Soon he began to gyrate his hips into Craig's hand. Craig couldn't hold back any longer. He had to get a taste. He leaned closer to William's body and slowly opened his mouth. The manly scent of William's crotch teased his nostrils. He opened his mouth wide as the head of William's dick brushed past the roof of his mouth. William let out a moan as he

ONEROTICA

Part IX

DOOR "655"

grabbed Craig's head and forced himself down Craig's throat.

"Yeah, Craig, suck it, baby. Suck that dick, nigga." Craig began to hungrily slurp William's dick. William began to moan and groan as ran his hands over Craig's head, neck, and ears. William's moans and touch made Craig wild with desire to have him inside his secret place. Then in one quick movement, William grabbed Craig's head and just said, "Stop! I want to fuck you...."

Craig's eyes widened as he looked into William's eyes and then back at his dick.

"Come on, you know you want to . Come on Cee Cee." Craig stood up and removed his boxer briefs. William reached under the couch and pulled out a black magnum and some lube. In a matter of seconds, he was covered and lubed up. He passed the bottle to Craig. Craig squeezed out a small amount on two of his fingers and worked it into his ass. He then put one foot up on the couch between William's thigh and the couch. He kept the other foot on the floor. William reached over and held Craig's waist on both sides . Craig grabbed William's dick and slowly guided it into his ass. He slowly slid down on it with an ease that made William call out the Lord's name in vain. Craig, too, began to moan with pleasure.

"Ride this dick, Craig. Ride this shit, boy," William growled. Craig soon began to bounce up and down on William's dick.

"Yeah, take that dick, boy take that dick. That's some good ass, boy, hell yeah!. Damn, nigga. That shit is better than my girl's shit. Take it Craig. Damn, that shit is tight!" Craig still could not believe that this was actually happening. It was all too much. He closed his eyes to enjoy the ride. He moaned with pleasure as he thought of all the many nights that he dreamed of this night. He then wanted to look into William's eyes to see how much pleasure he was experiencing. He rolled his head back up to face William. He slowly opened his eyes. There, below him was no longer William. It was Tony!!!! Craig couldn't believe his eyes.

"Yeah Cee Cee ride this dick. Ride it baby!!"

"Noooooooooo!" yelled Craig as he sat straight up in William's bed. His chest pounded as he tried to catch his breath. Soon, he realized he was in William's apartment.

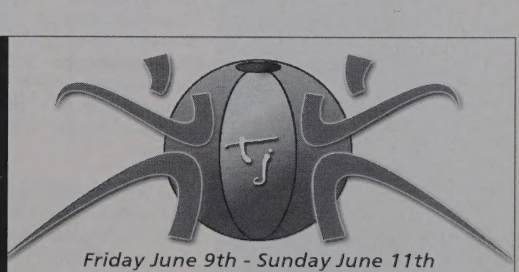
"It was a fuckin' dream! Thank God," he said rubbing his temples. "It was so real! But where in the hell did Tony come from?" He then noticed that he was almost naked. "What is going on? What did I do last night? Damn, my head is killing me," he said as he pulled the covers away. He knew that he had the hangover from hell. He could not remember anything from last night. Then, he wondered where William was. He stood up, went to the door, and slowly opened it. He could hear the static of the television. William was still asleep. There he was, sprawled across the couch. And there IT was, wishing Craig a 'good morning'. William's dick was standing straight up under the thin sheet that barely covered his waist. Craig paused for a minute or two, savoring the view, yet thinking how ironic it was. Could his dream be materializing? He was too scared to move towards the television. So, he stood there. But soon, his own dick began to grow. He slowly reached down to grab it. He was actually getting turned on by just staring at the impression of William's dick against the sheet. He began to stroke his own dick as he stood there admiring William's erection. All he thought about was the smell, the taste, the feel of that hot dick from his dream. He stood there in the shadows, jacking off. With his other hand, he began pinching and rubbing his nipples. William could wake up at any minute, but Craig was too close. He was on the edge of shooting. The idea of William catching him made it all the more pleasurable. And soon, he was there.

"Oh shit, oh shit," he whispered. And in a matter of minutes, he was spewing his fluids all over his hands and his underwear. Finally catching his breath, he stood there for a few seconds, staring at William's erection. "Damn, that was good William," he whispered to himself. He then walked back to William's bedroom to take a shower.

William rolled over on his side and opened one eye. Craig had walked away. He then rolled back over to face the television screen. He smiled to himself, closed his eyes, and went back to sleep.

STAY TUNED TO NEXT MONTH....

COMING SOON



Friday June 9th - Sunday June 11th

LETSREAD
Book Reviews & Signings

African-American Publishing and Life Partners Read at Outwrite

Ricc Rollins to Read from Sequel Breathe Again; Lorenzo Robertson to Read Eclectic Essence

On Sunday, March 19, 2000 @ 7:30 PM, Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse will host a joint reading and signing: Breathe Again by Ricc Rollins and Eclectic Essence: Poetry for the Heart and Mind by Lorenzo Robertson.

Breathe Again is the sequel to the acclaimed Like Breathing, Rollins' first novel and Ishai Books' first title. Breathe Again continues the modern-day story of a black gay man facing professional triumphs and personal tragedies that cause him to question his faith and purpose.

Eclectic Essence: Poetry for the Heart, Mind and Soul explores Robertson's thoughts and feelings in an uncluttered, easy-to-relate-to style. Eclectic Essence reveals the deep emotions that are rarely expressed yet often felt in the many facets of one's life.

Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse has been serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1993.

10th & Piedmont Ave.
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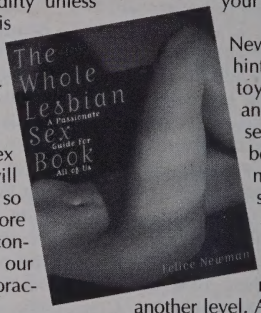
reviewed by
Rev. Dr. Shirlene Holmes PhD
atlanta, ga.

THE WHOLE LESBIAN SEX BOOK:
A Passionate Guide For All of Us By Felice Newman

According to the great philosopher, Redd Foxx, "Sex isn't dirty unless you didn't wash up!" It is time for all of us to embrace our sexual lives with caution, vigor and gratitude.



To have the wonderful sex life you DESERVE, you will have to do the work. It is so important that we be more informed so we can deconstruct and reconstruct our sexual perceptions and practices.

You will want to pick up this very informative and enlightening book. Not only is it intelligent and sexy, it contains humor and guidance.

Newman, who proudly exclaims her sexual prowess in the introduction, and I ain't mad at her, set out to create a guide for the many faces in our community: the lesbian, bisexual, butch, femme, androgynous or transgendered, dyklings and bonafide platinum and gold card carrying bulldaggers. In this book, the author opens a new world for any woman who is going from a subconscious to a conscious attraction and sexual involvement with women.

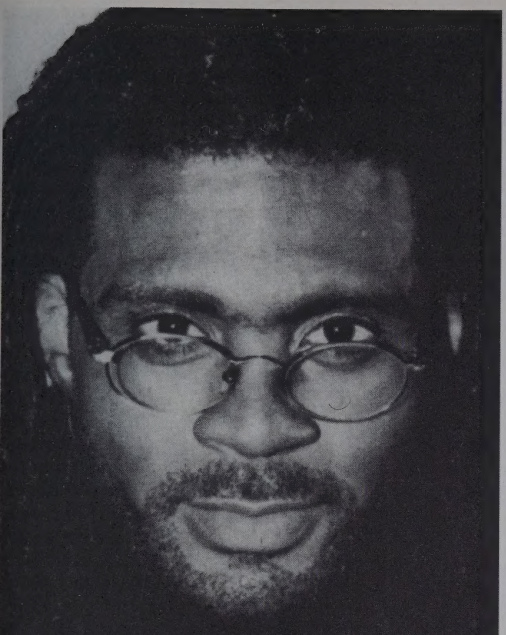
The Whole Leshic~n Sex Book gives tips on how to find sex partners and how to talk openly with lovers about sex. In addition, it gives the how-to on achieving big and bad orgasms, and techniques that will get you where you want to go in the bedroom or the back seat of the car or wherever I'm gonna stay outta your business.

Newman gives helpful hints in choosing sex toys and shares tips and techniques on safe sex play such as fun bondage and dominance and submission. Now, if this ain't your thing, you can still use this book to take your romantic thang to another level. And it's about another level.

Finally, this book offers the latest research on sexual health for lesbian and bisexual women, including women-to-woman sexually transmitted diseases. In addition, the book concludes with a resource guide with hundreds of books, magazines, web sites, retail and mail order outlets, e-mail discussions lists, gender resources and S/M organizations.

This book is a good read and a good guide. Pick it up and take your understanding and love life to another level.

On a last note, the book would be more enticing to all of us, if the cover was more representative of all us. The bottom half of a white woman does not speak to all of our sensibilities.



Sweet Cornbread & Hot Green Tea

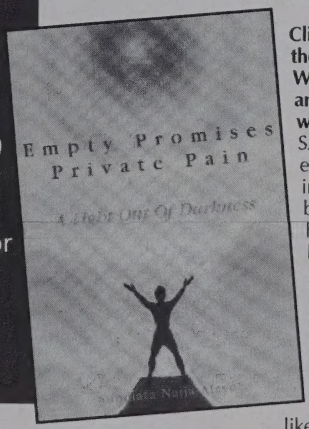
interview with Sundiata Alaye' author of Empty Promises, Private Pain: A Light Out of Darkness .

by Darryl!

After previewing Empty Promises, Private Pain: A Light Out of Darkness and talking to the author we decided to have a more indepth conversation about his inspiration and passion for writing the book. Our copy editor, Darryl! caught up with Alaye' at his studio in Memphis, TN.

Over the phone, Alaye´, sounds relaxed and ready to face the public interest and scrutiny that comes with this kind of publication. His voice and manner exude a quiet-earthy-soul-brother kind of confidence that immediately puts the listener at ease and draws you into his conversation, as if you have known him and been friends for years. Alaye´ believes that what he has created and produced will be a "light out of darkness" as a helpful and effective tool for African-American gay men, specifically, but for anyone, male or female, seeking personal healing and movement towards building a better self and relationships.

Clikque: What inspired you to write this book?
SA: The conditions in the community. I see so many people who are hurting, I remember being in that place and I didn't know it. And even when I realized it I didn't know how to get out of it. Many brothers are coming out but with no direction... It was time because I found my freedom. I never envisioned that this was what I would be doing but I could not be silent anymore.



Clikque: Tell me about the process of writing. What did it do for you and what effect do you want it to have?
SA: This is not the be all end all- I am not standing on Mt Sinai next to be burning bush- or holier than thou. I have had these experiences I write about them in the book- we all know what it is like to have to discover our sexuality and what a trauma that is for some of us. We all know what it is like to be in a relationship and be insecure with who we are with. Most of us know what it is like to be cheated on or have an unfaithful companion. Most of us know the experience of the pain of separation of a relationship breaking up, and we also know the pain of loss and grief.

Clikque: Tell us about the process of writing this book...what did it do for you and what do you want it to do for others:

SA: First of all I left my home in Washington and got a studio in Memphis- I needed to get out of that area and focus so I could hear the work. The book has been very cathartic... although I had done some healing before writing but writing made me go deeper than ever before into my history... it caused me to dredge up some of the old residue that I did not know was still there from the past.

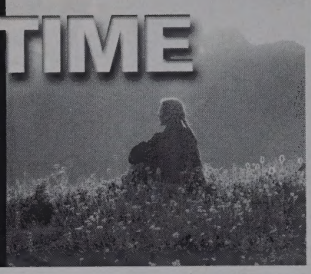
Sundiata Alaye will be appearing in Atlanta
March 12th @ 6:30PM
Sponsored By The Men Of
Second Sunday
Atlanta Lambda Center
828 W. Peachtree Street
Suite 207

Naturally, as a writer ...my warmest dream is that it will change peoples lives and giver them some insight into the importance of loving themselves more... that it is essential- critical even, that we find ourselves again. But at a minimum what I want to do is to just stop the brothers for a minute- just for a half-second and challenge them to think differently about who they are #1; and # 2 about their motivations.

Clikque: Resulting in what?

Continues On Page 64

POETRY TIME
Clikque Magazine



If you've got some poetry that you would like to share with the rest of the country, then send them to us at:

1117 Peachtree Walk NE, Suite 125
Atlanta Ga. 30309
email: clikquem@aol.com or www.clikque.com

FULL OF EMPTINESS
by Khalid D. Idawu

Like waves
rushing to kiss the shore
this feeling
unbound
roars through me
Like the wind
whispering in your ear
this feeling
deafening
calls out to me

It's haunting melody
brash
and off key
triste and distinct
always there
to remind me
Of this desolate heart
filled with despair
memories and tears
of love
no longer there

Something inside
so very strong
filling me
like the hollow
fills the log

This feeling
saturates me
a young man
both Black and gay
An eclectic mind
in total disarray
needing acceptance
and longing to be heard
annihilating
infuriating
brimming
and condemning
filling me
crippling me
filling me
I'm so very full

"TEMPORARY PLEASURE"
by Todd Edwards

Decorated with semen, I yearn for the mammoth inside me. Slowly it slithers within cavity deep, wet, dank, soaked. The lower extremities of my body ignite with blazing hot intensity, I quiver at the sound of his heavy breath, an erotic phonic.

We lay exhausted, content, emotionally charged for the moment. His flesh glistens with sweat. His breath, warm and sweet. His lips, full and red the color of blood. His presence makes me secure and confident.

Sheets white, embossed with muscle and flesh. We lay quitely and sleep intensively until morning.

"INVISIBLE LOVER"
by C. "Doc" Hoskins Jr.

Neither doesn't know . . .
that there exists another.
I'm caught in between
and I continuously lust for the other.

I'M NOT CONFUSED.
I come and go as I please.
I've got the 'vantage of both worlds
The pleasure of picking . . . with ease.

I'm the ultimate lover.
I please this one and that one.
It's like playing a game,
that has no laughter.

I touch them here
and lick that one there.
My developed technique
gives pleasurable fear.

I should choose and be happy.
But the world is full of choices
Only the future will tell
if I'll have to deal with inner voices.

Oh, I've had commitments
and relationships,
But never to wed.
But I gets no complaints
when I'm kicking it in bed.

I have a powerful gift for pleasure,
and I MUST share it like a true friend.
I've been dealt the best hand
and I'll play my cards till the end.

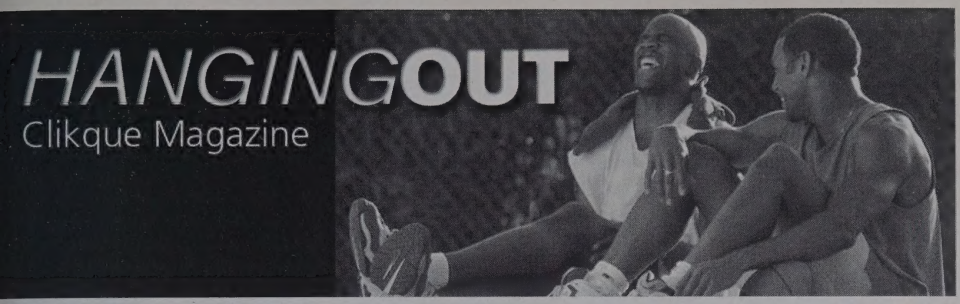
SHADE'S LAMENT
Khalid D. Idawu
For my brotha ShadeTree

You silently walked in
unexpressed
Completely changing this...
this entombment called my life
There has been an entente
without my consent
An invite by former, would-be or
so-called lovers
This is the abode of a Nubian Prince
My home!
No welcoming was thrown by my court
for the likes of you
but...that isn't your style...is it?
Your's is to cease and conquer
I lay awake
on hot, wet sheets, praying for an escape
repulsed by the havoc you wreak
Futile attempts with poisonous libations
to ease my di-ease and hide my pain
are met with your laughter
and
a whisper in my ear
"It's all in vain."

Your homicidal tendencies
and nonessential existence
have left me in a fucked-up predicament
This Adonis of the Sun
now cowers in the Moonlight
seeking refuge
in the shadows of misrepresentation
I'm living with you
knowing you
as I watch you
killing...heartlessly...mercilessly...
randomly
Not once, not ever calling authorities
fearing
that I may be next
You're so self assured
sadistically laughing at my plea's
Seemingly loving it all the more when I
beg
"Please, Dear God; leave!"

Silly man, I feel you say
you are well aware
of how it's going to be,
I am a part of you
stronger than you
hating you
needing you
destroying you
loving you
You know me
here for life
your roommate
my name is...(hiv)

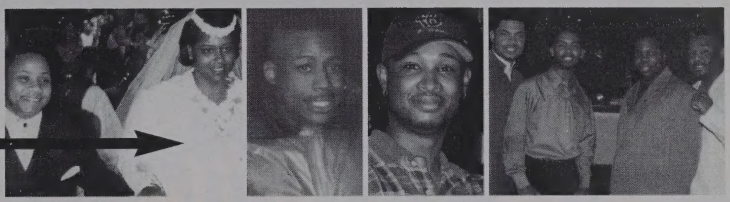
HANGINGOUT
Clikque Magazine



Unity Pride organizer, Bruce Johnson & Friends @ His Birthday Party

Hanging Out In Houston, Texas

Lady Chanel & Company @ Rascals Nightclub

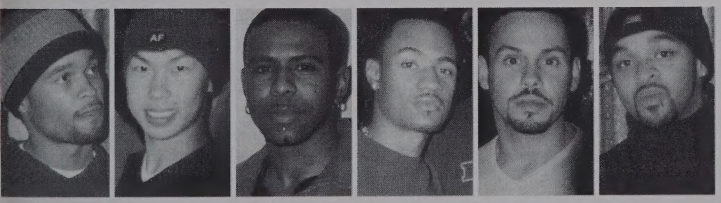


Ladies Tieing the knot @ Rascals

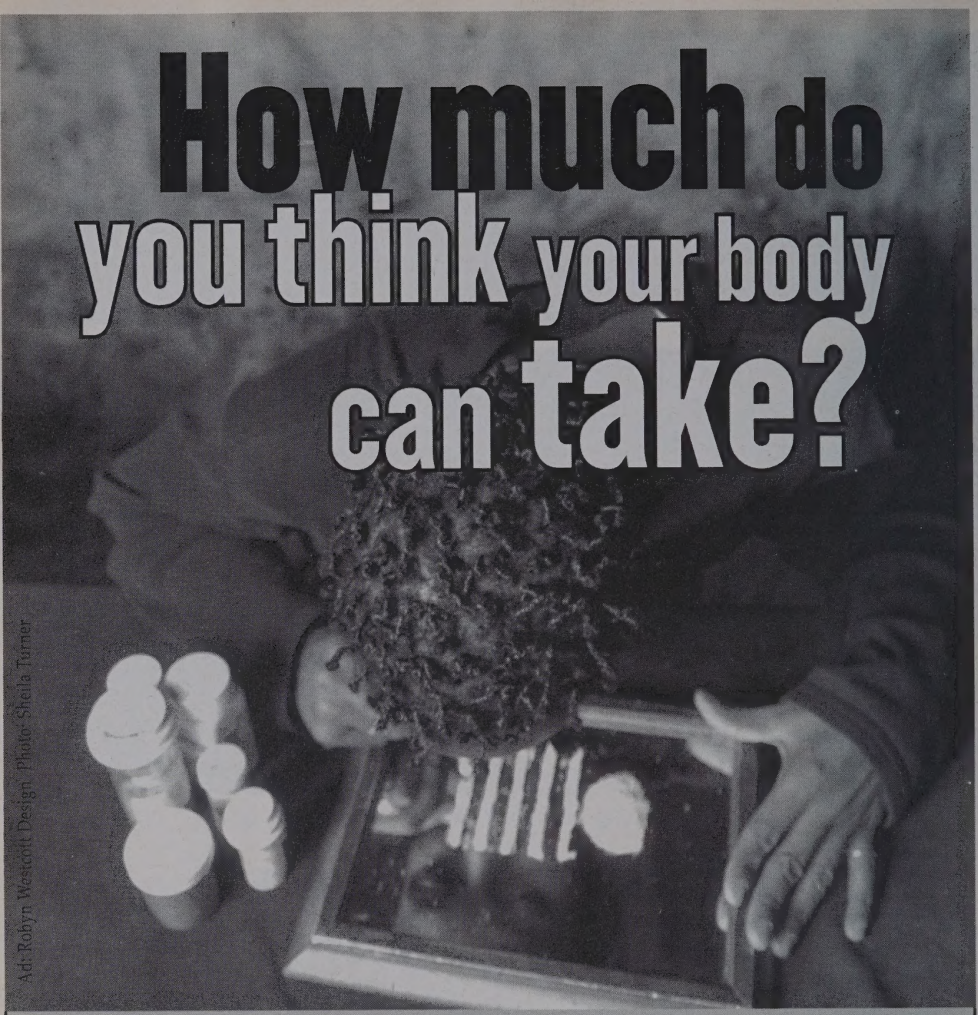
Hanging Out In Houston, Texas

Cuties enjoying Sophia & The Stars of The Century @ Traxx

Hanging Out In HotLanda



Hotties HANGINGOUT In The ATL. Our Picks for the month



AIDS medications are hard enough on you without the added stress of drugs. Don't let partying make you forget your medications, and always protect yourself and your partner with a condom. For facts, call 1.800.551.2728. To meet friends in a drug free zone, call AID Atlanta at 404.872.0600 and ask about the PARTY project.

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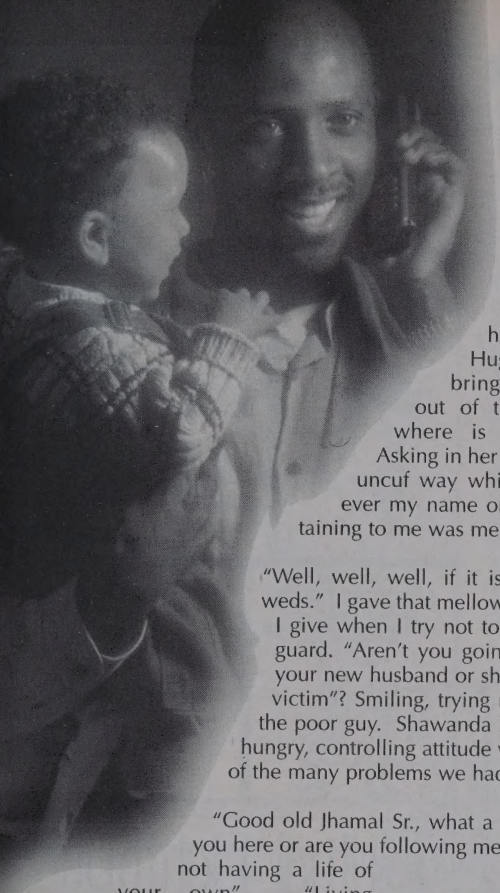


My Son, His Life

The Life of a Gay Father and His Son

Mr. Jhahbriel C.E. Moore-Collins Washington, D.C.

"Mama" was all I needed to hear on this vacation. Jhamal runs to his mother almost knocking her back down into the sand. "What are you doing here Jhamal?" Hugging him as to bring the breathe out of the boy. "And where is your father"? Asking in her normal snappy uncuf way which was whenever my name or anything pertaining to me was mentioned.

"Well, well, well, if it isn't the newlyweds." I gave that mellow dramatic tone I give when I try not to act caught off guard. "Aren't you going to introduce your new husband or should I say new victim"? Smiling, trying not to laugh at the poor guy. Shawanda had this power hungry, controlling attitude which was one of the many problems we had.

"Good old Jhamal Sr., what a surprise to see you here or are you following me for the sake of not having a life of your own". "Living through me or living for me, which either wouldn't surprise me". She gave me that ready to do battle look. 'Shawanda darling, it would be a big waste and not in front of "MY" son. She was all geared up for a dangerous reading session. I refuse to display my sharp daggers while my son looked on, not really knowing what was going on. I had too much respect for little man. Besides, I graduated from the school of Better Reads with a Doctorate Degree. Jhamal just stood there between us giving me that look as to say "Ah Dad"! "OK! OK! Break it up kids!" Her husband, a tall heavy sets guy with a mouth full of silver caps, in his mid-30's. As he came between Shawanda and I he puts one arm around her and extends his other to greet me.

What's up Man"? "My name is Antonio Forrest, but my friends call me Tony." He seemed to be a pretty cool guy. Antonio is what I knew was going to call him because we would probably never be friends or would we? He had that in love look I use to have with Shawanda. That she would never hurt me. Poor misguided fool. "Well Antonio, I am sure you know who I am by now." "And regardless of what you may have heard, believe only 5% of it". "The other 95% of it, I am sure my lovely x-wife gave you the drag through the mud version." She has a way of doing that when she lost for words." "Her poor brain doesn't hold that much vocabulary". I can't help but laugh telling Antonio this.

"Your son looks just like you and I see where he gets that sharp tongue from." Antonio started laughing as he was telling me this. He got cool points for that statement. So I guess he might be all right. Shawanda didn't like this at all. She started gathering her things to leave. "Mama, where are you going?. "Jhamal was trying to be a baby all of sudden. The attention was getting to him. He wanted to follow her. "Baby, Mama is on her honeymoon and that doesn't require a third party." "Especially not an x-husband", looking at me rolling her eyes as she was hugging him patting him on the head like some pound puppy.

"Oh by the way, you never told me who you came with Jhamal Sr. or did you hope to come and find some poor lonely woman who is ready to take on anything or anyone?. "Please spare her your dramas." Shawanda was really trying my patience. My heart sake though, because she knew nothing of my personal life or anything. I never had to explain myself to her or anybody. She just stood there with her arms folded like some schoolteacher.

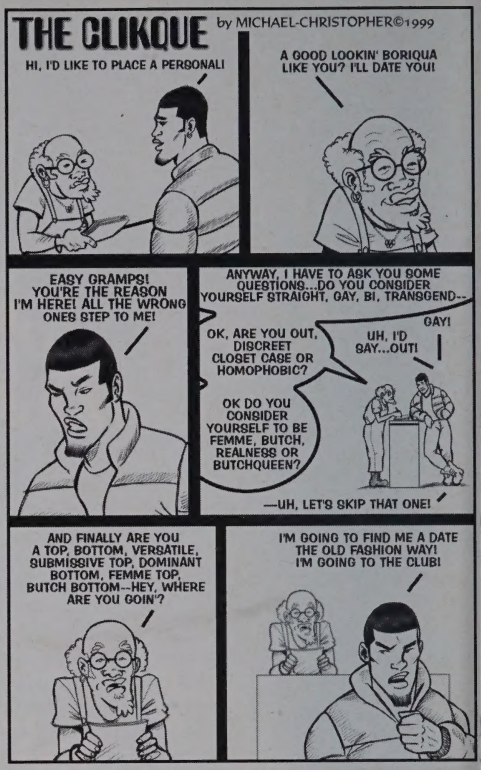
Then, Jhamal tugs on my shorts and says "Daddy, there is Bryant"! Bryant came walking towards us with a tray of drinks balancing a vase of roses for me, smiling from ear to ear.....Now the shit is going to hit the fan.

To Be Continued.....

Don Sneed Continued From Page 9

to a halt. My generation must accept the responsibility for providing experienced, thoughtful and wise leadership in the arenas of healthcare, manhood development, community development, economic development, education and political empowerment to our young brothers. We must make this world a better place for them than it has been for us. To engage in such an endeavor reaffirms our humanity, African ethnicity and confirms our spirituality. To do less than that would taint us as beyond sub-human for even animals will do the same for their succeeding generations. Let us not go cowardly into the latter years of our lives leaving HIV/AIDS as the dominant legacy of our generation. We deserve more and our younger brothers deserve much more than that from us.

It boils down to a matter of choice. Choice - the glory of our humanhood. We can chose to make a different decision. We can chose to pick up our cross and bear it. We can chose to stand up before God, the world and the next generation and manifest ourselves as the Black Gold of the Son through our deeds of service to humanity. Until next month; may God's Peace be with you all, my brothers and sisters.


THE CLIKQUE
by MICHAEL-CHRISTOPHER©1999
HI, I'D LIKE TO PLACE A PERSONAL!
A GOOD LOOKIN' BORIQUA LIKE YOU? I'LL DATE YOU!
EASY GRAMPS! YOU'RE THE REASON I'M HERE! ALL THE WRONG ONES STEP TO ME!
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS...DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF STRAIGHT, GAY, BI, TRANSGEND--
GAY!
UH, I'D SAY...OUT!
OK, ARE YOU OUT, DISCREET CLOSET CASE OR HOMOPHOBIC?
OK DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE FEMME, BUTCH, REALNESS OR BUTCHQUEEN?
—UH, LET'S SKIP THAT ONE!
AND FINALLY ARE YOU A TOP, BOTTOM, VERSATILE, SUBMISSIVE TOP, DOMINANT BOTTOM, FEMME TOP, BUTCH BOTTOM--HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOIN'?
I'M GOING TO FIND ME A DATE THE OLD FASHION WAY! I'M GOING TO THE CLUB!

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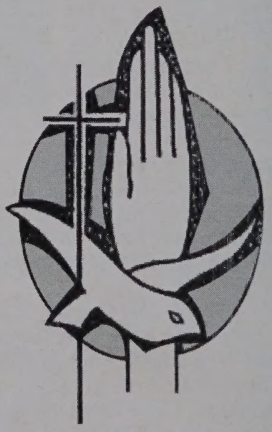

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email: mnmb@bellsouth.net

Sweet Cornbread.. Continued From Page 59

SA: Resulting in change for the better- being more healed, whole, and conscious of love. There are 10 chapters in this book... I guarantee that there is something in there that will touch everyone.

Clikque: What special energy drew you to Memphis as a refuge?
SA: I had never been to Memphis- in fact, when it came to me I did not even know where it was, I prayed for a place and in my prayers Memphis just came to me. I still live in DC but I write in Memphis.

Clikque: Tell us about you, the person.
SA: There is not really much to tell I'm like everybody else. I am originally from NY and attended Howard U. I've been writing for 7 years, I was in corporate america (as an auditor for many years) but I left to write.

Clikque: And your personal life, what is significant?
SA: I love my family and my friends. I'm single and have been single for a number of years. I am a very simple person. I love to party and spend time with the people I love. I am fortunate and blessed to have the people in my life I have known.

Clikque: And what about marriage and children?
SA: I have never been married and I have one son. At age 19 I took custody of him when he was 6 years old. I don't care to get into anymore details of my son, who is now in college. I am very proud of him and I love him very much.

Clikque: What are your plans for the future?
SA: I own my own publishing house and in the spring I will be introducing new writers to the community. Readers can look forward to a new offering from Sundiata in the summer. And a follow up to Empty next fall.

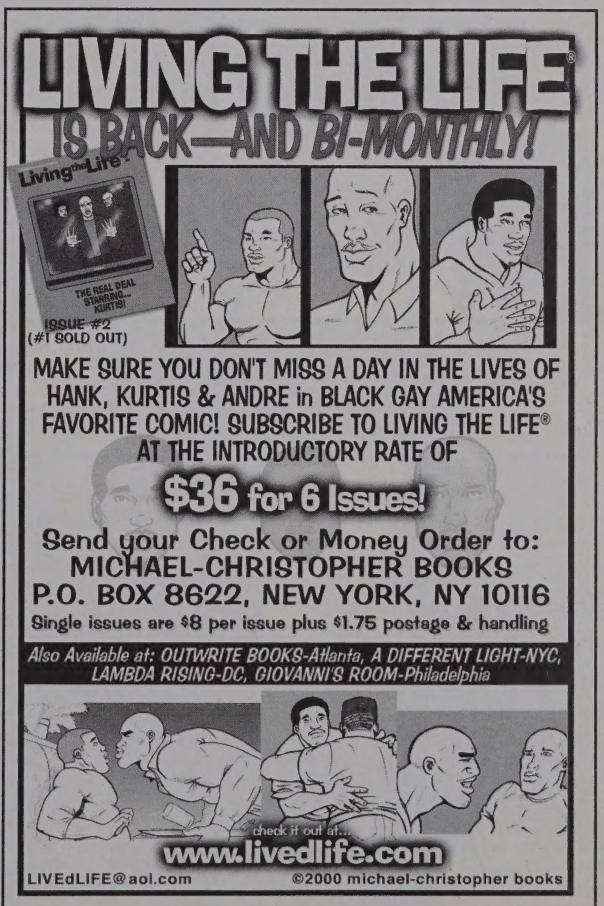
Clikque: Can our readers have a sneak preview of the upcoming book?
SA: All I can give you now is that it will be a collection of poetry, prose, and short stories. I want to offer some light reading after this recent book. I want to convey a message of hope and healing. All my short stories have happy endings ... I love happy endings.

Clikque: What has been the most exciting thing about this book and the current international tour you are on?
SA: Well, of course, I was a bit apprehensive about whether the book would take off and how I could get to the people. I did not know how hard it would be to get bookings and make a living with this. It was amazing that after releasing the book in October I was booked for speaking engagements until APRIL 2000. Recently, I was booked in Canada, and several places in the US, with other dates still pending. I am very excited about all of this.

Clikque: Anything you want to say to your readers:
SA: Yes. It is so important for us to try something new and different. We have been doing the same thing for a long time. We are just emerging, we believe, from an epidemic that has wiped out a whole generation of our friends... There are underlying reasons why we have become so sexual these days... We are acting out our fears, acting out our frustrations, acting out our pain,and we are acting out our loneliness. It is important for us to surface all of those issues in our lives that keep us from living peacefully.

All I want to do and anything I have asked the Creator to allow me to present the readers my brother and sisters is that the message of love and healing is universal and we have to look deep within ourselves for the answers and realize that everything that happens to us happens for a divine purpose and reason. It 's like my Grandfather used to say: "the way a peacock grows its feathers is by eating thorns." I never knew what that meant for years but eventually I realized that what he meant was that it is the harsh things in life we digest that contribute to our beauty.

And, Alaye urges us to be mindful of the current plight of African American's infected and affected by HIV/AIDS "let us not be fooled by the misinformation on AIDS- brothers are still dying . It is not over yet."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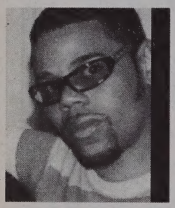
Vogue

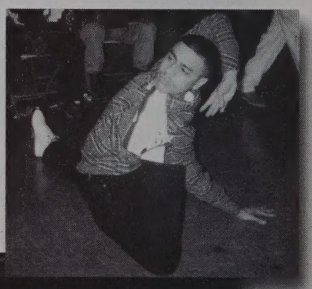
What is vogue? Vogue is not just the magazine that features models posing in the latest fashions. Vogue is a dance, it's attitude, and it's a way of life. It is everything you can learn when you go to a ball; style, fashion, runway, posing, modeling, technique, individuality, and being seen. It is the test of physical endurance and originality. It is serving your opponent in battle and reading with your hands. Like it or not, vogueing has been around for nearly 25 years and isn't going anywhere because vogueing changes with the times. Want to know how to vogue? Here is what you must know;

THE ORIGIN: No one actually knows who started vogueing (not Madonna), but some claim that Paris Dupree started it. Others say it started in a jail yard in the 1970's where some incarcerated 'kids' were trying to out-pose each other to pass time. Back in those old days in Harlem, vogueing was called simply "Performance". Most of the vogueing of that time was like accelerated model's poses. As time went on the styles changed.

THE STYLES: There are at least 6 different styles and all are unmistakable by their power to make you look at it. The "Old Way", which is the original way of vogueing, it's like model posing with a kind of start-stop type of motion that is accented with graceful twirls and intricate hand movements. "Pop, Dip and Spin" was the next style that formed. You were literally called upon to "pop" your body, "dip" to the ground and "spin" and twirl as well as incorporate acrobatics. This style quickly gave way to the "New Way", which requires stretching, splitting, clicks (double-jointed like movements behind the back and head) and gymnastics as opposed to the traditional model-like poses. "Face with Performance" calls for vogueing around the face and "selling" your face through hand movements and facial expressions. "Fem Queen Performance" is for the transsexuals. This style accentuates one's femininity by pointing out and exaggerating female characteristics like long hair, hips, breasts and a dainty walk. "Butch Queen Vogue Fem" is basically males imitating the fem queens without the benefit of hormones or silicone. This style started about seven years ago and is the most popular style of vogueing around. Both "Fem Queen Performance" and "BQ Vogue Fem" have gone from a soft and dainty beginning to more drama and acrobatics. All styles, however, have kept the spirit of attitude alive.



written by staff writer
Danny Galliano atlanta, ga.



WHY DO IT? Many people vogue because it is fun and challenging. It pushes one's limits physically and creatively. It helps keep in you shape and you can develop good dance technique and heightened battle instincts. Also, when you get good at it, and people notice, the attention can be good for the ego.

DOING IT PROPERLY: How do you know if you are vogueing? Vogueing is hard to describe, but originality, attitude and perfection of movement are the main keys to being able to vogue. Most people have their own style, but there are enough similarities for one to know if you are doing it correctly. Attitude plays the largest part, as you have to convince the opposition that you are better them.

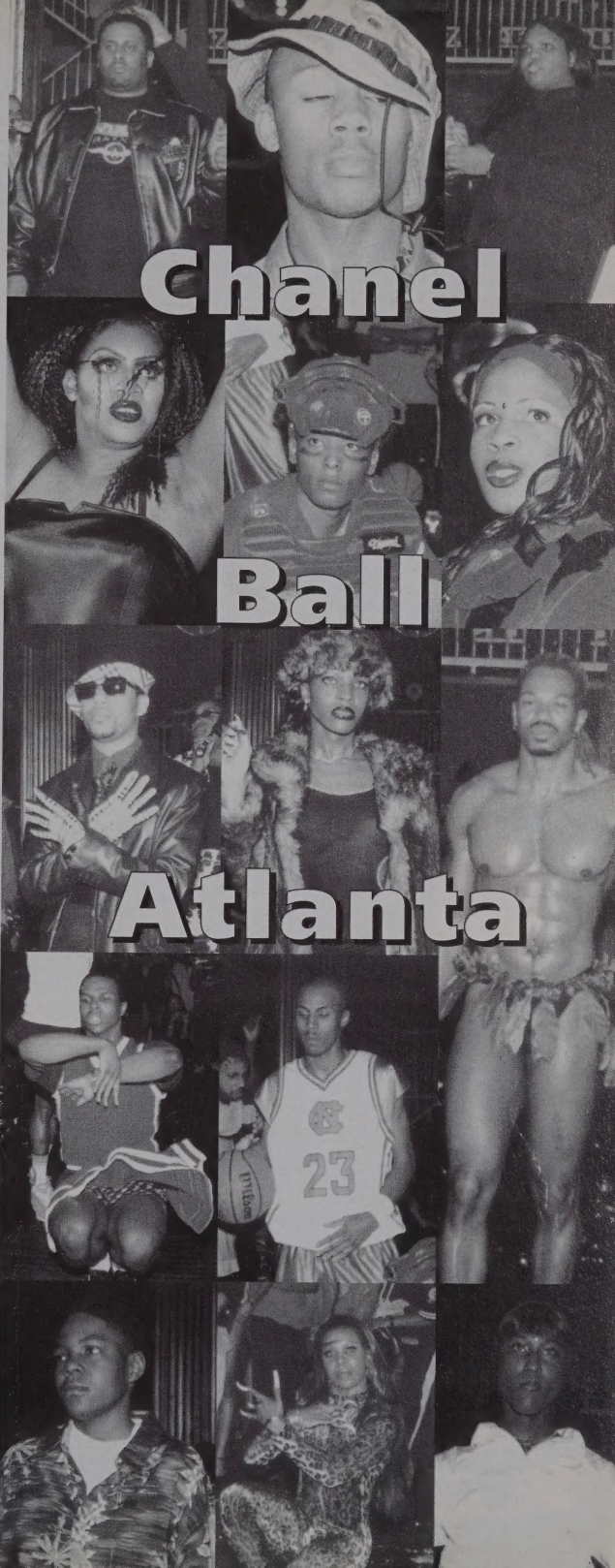
...AND THE DON'T'S: Vogueing isn't sloppy. It is a dance, so you move the beat. Don't get 'locked' in the "Old Way", which is when your opponent will try to "embrace" you (usually from behind) to prevent you from doing your moves. Don't stand in one place. Don't practice off of your favorite song (you never know what will be played at a ball). Don't

show off all your new moves at the club, as you will find your opponent doing them at the next ball.

ROLL CALL: Many people have excelled at vogueing and have either gone on to legendary status or are known in the ballscene as tough competitors. Here is a brief list of names that you need to know. Some of our legends are no longer with us, but you can still learn from them through pictures and video tape; "Old Way"- Ronald LaMay, Stevie St. Laurent, Ira Aphrodite, Muhammad Omni, GG Ebony, Danny Xtravaganza, Fuquan Essence, Eric Bazaar, Tony Mugler. "Pop, Dip and Spin"—Jerome Pendavis, Jason Overness, Lamar Ebony, Andre Mizrahi, Derrick LaBeija. "New Way"—Jose Xtravaganza, Aldawna Xtravaganza, Otis Mugler, Stanley Milan, Jose Revlon, Damian Revlon, Hicabee Milan. "Face with Performance"—Jarrett Ebony, Terrell Ebony, Brian Omni, Jamal Milan, Julian Mugler, Kaduma Ebony, Cliff Milan. "Fem Queen Performance"—Danielle Revlon, Moldavia LaBeija, Kadeidra St. Laurent, Sandy Ninja, Bianca Xtravaganza, Leah Richards, Melissa Milan, Latisha Revlon, Ashley St. Claire, Alyssa, Sinia Ebony, Revlon Ebony, Yolanda Jourdan. "BQ Vogue Fem"—Eugene Milan, Shay-Shay Mizrahi, Taifa Ebony, Albert Revlon, Armani Milan, Charles Khan, Derrick Mugler, Kevin Ebony, Kevin Bazaar and Mica Ebony.

Now you know all about vougeing Remember that it is just a dance done for fun and if you see someone in a club doing, don't judge them based on the fact that they are vogueing. Think about all the hard work and creativity that goes into it.

Special thanks/shout-outs to; Better Days, Midtown 43, the Garage, Traxx (NYC), Sound Factory, Sound Factory Bar, Imperial Elks Lodge, Marc Ballroom, Red Zone, Continental Club, Lincoln Center Community Center, Clubhouse (NYC), Nile, Traxx (DC), Bunz, Paradox, Clubhouse (DC), YWCA in Brooklyn, Traxx (Atl), Loretta's, David De Pino, Andre Collins, Madonna, David Ian Xtravaganza for "Elements of Vogue", Malcolm McLaren for "Deep in Vogue", First Choice, MFSB, Diana Ross, Ralphi Rosario, "Hot For You", George Krantz, Jenny Livingston, Iman, Linda, Naomi and Christy (they ARE vogue), and contributors Tony Mugler, Reudi Galliano, and Armani Milan.



Men Of Color Motivational Group Inc.

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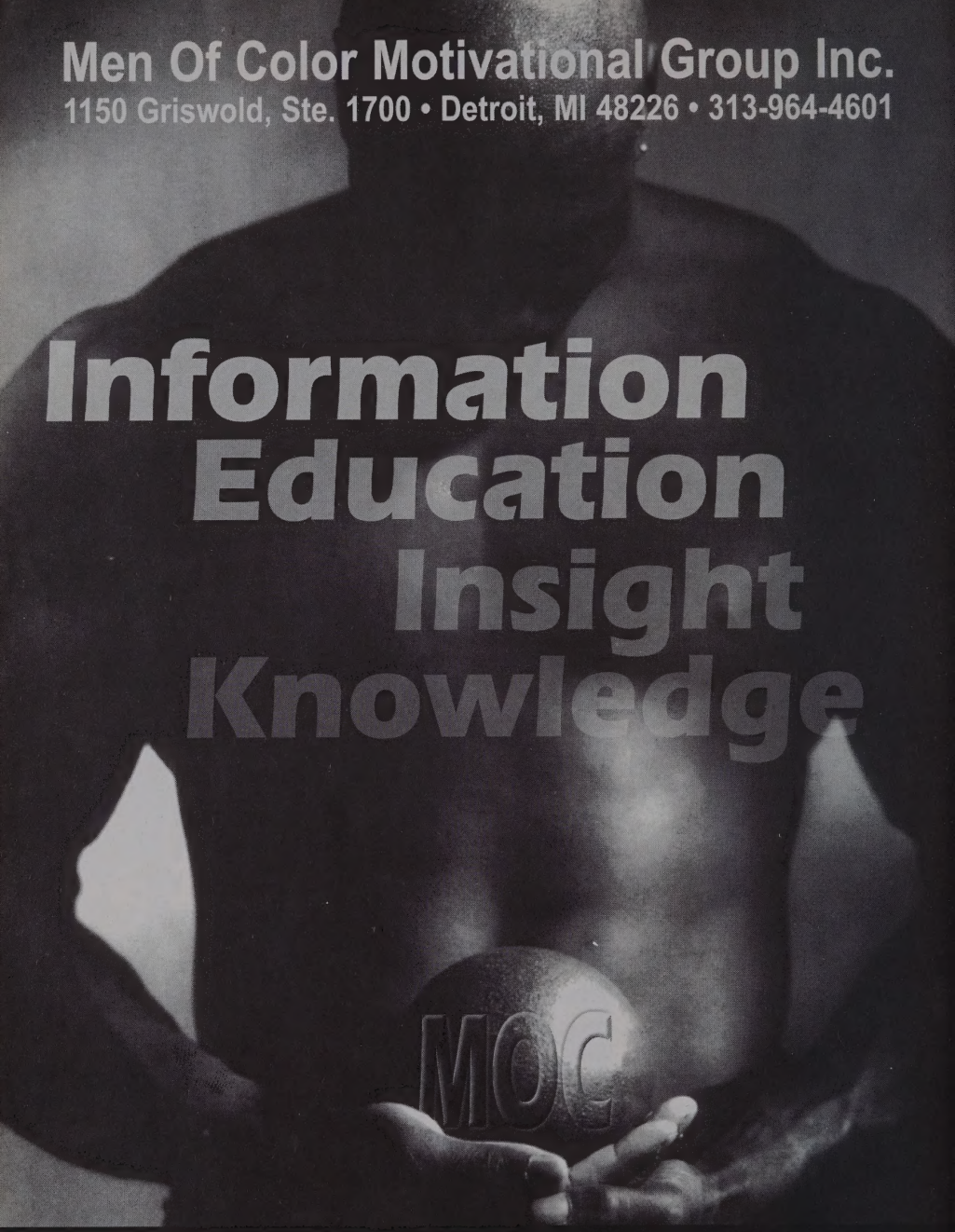


MEN OF COLOR MOTIVATIONAL GROUP INC. strives to empower African-American gay/bisexual/transgender men by providing information, education, insight, and knowledge on day to day issues in the African-American community. MOC advocates positive health strategies and non-biased information dissemination and education. Education and motivation of African-American men is our primary concern in order to bridge gaps of understanding and knowledge. We encourage openness, trust, and most of all mutual respect for one another.

Although the need of the African-American male is our primary focus, Men of Color welcome the participation of all community minded individuals. Our organization is equally aware of and sensitive to the needs of the community as a whole.

Components of our program include safer sex workshops, providing speakers for organizations and community outreach efforts, primary and secondary prevention case management and housing assistance programs, bars, and club outreach, material distribution and HIV/AIDS Peer Training, and HIV/AIDS Anonymous/Confidential Counseling and Testing.

She's Back...
Ask Bianca
Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine, 1117 Peachtree Walk NE, Suite 125, Atlanta, Ga 30309 Or email her c/o Clikquem@aol.com

Hello everyone! I am here to spill the tea so get your cups ready. As it turns out during last month Clikque received an e-mail from someone who was interested in knowing if any of the staff members were single and all that they asked in particular was for them to be male. Can we say desperate? The next tired scanch that sends an e-mail asking about my pieces will have to answer to me! Now let me handle my business for this month.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,
Do you think its possible to love more than one person? I don't want you to think that I am some kinda whore because I'm not. I live in Dallas,Tx. and I met a wonderful guy whom I love so very much who lives in Atlanta, Ga. I met another guy in December whom I kicked it with for almost 2 months but I had to end it because I felt that it was very wrong and I wouldn't want it to be done to me. But I still miss him so very much and I feel as if I love him but I'm not really sure why.. I do know that I love my friend in Atlanta and I want to be with him..but at the same time there's that feeling for the guy here in TX that's dwelling within also.. My friends don't feel as if this is possible, they think that its only lust for the guy here but I don't think so... What do you think?
Confused-Dallas,Tx.

Your Highness,
I must say that I feel honored to be giving advice to the " Drama Queen" of Texas. Maam, please get yourself together first. I have no pity for tramps trying to act like victims. If you love them both, then love them enough to focus on one or the other.
Your welcome!
Miss Bianca

Dear Bianca,
I have a big problem with being single. I have been single for over a year now and believe it or not this is a record for me. I am tired of being alone! I am very attractive, financially stable, and I am a people person. I seem to keep attracting scrubs and I don't know why. Can You help me ?
Lonely in DC

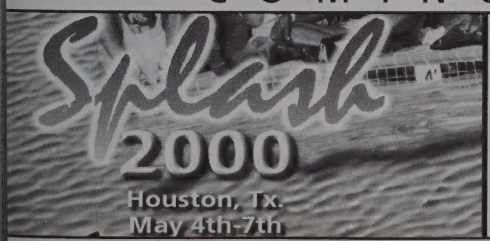
Bitch you ain't slick I know who you are! Now Rudy, what's with all this I'm attractive and a people person??? Reality check Queen! You're as a obese as deloreese and no more a people person than Johnny Rocker. You are single because everyone has had you. Unless DC gets an influx of new sissies sometime soon you will remain S.O.L. for a while. I recommend you start in a new city, just stay away from Atlanta, we have enough of your kind here, hopefully they will follow this same advice.
GET PACKIN
Bianca

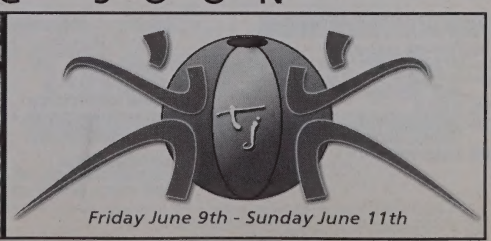
Dear Bianca,
I have found the perfect mate with enough dick to make plenty of money as a stripper, not saying that he is, but you no what I mean. He is so attentive and affectionate. The only problem is with all of that going on, he can't screw.
What should I do?
Not satisfied- Bronx , NY.

Write Bianca Today!

Girrrl,
Teach it, tame it, and ride it home! Ain't nothin like teaching a baby to give it to you how you want it, now I'm assuming this is a baby (21 & under). If he isn't, child tell her to leave you alone, don't nothing piss me off like queen dick, I don't care how big it is. So honey pull out the beginners manuel or a damn chainsaw and aim for that bitch's ankles!
Bianca

C O M I N G S O O N





CLUBHOT SPOTS

Clikque Magazine

Your Premiere Guide To
Clubs Across America

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed here.

ATLANTA, GA

BACKSTREET ATLANTA
845 Peachtree Street (Rear Entrance) 404-873-1986. Always Open & Pouring. Membership Required * Membership Available. Hip-Hop Tuesdays w/DJ Biff

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree Street, 404-872-3025. One of Atlanta's most happening nightspot. Open seven days a week.

CLUB FUSION
550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Thursdays, Fridays, & Sundays.

CLUB JAGUAR
W. Peachtree & 15th St., 404-874-5673. Fridays- For women that love women; 10pm-4am

THE OTHERSIDE
1924 Piedmont Rd., 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

THE PALACE
91 Broad Street, 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

THE SEQUEL
708 Spring Street, 404-874-8125. Open Sundays-Wednesdays

THELMA'S PUMP ROOM
836 Juniper, 404-881-9230. Black on Friday Nights for the Best in Female Impersonation.

TRAXX NIGHTCLUB
306 Luckie St., N.W., 404-681-4422
Black and gay on Mondays, Thursdays & Saturdays.

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel St. 410-837-9110. Saturdays Nights Hip-Hop Dance Floor, House & Classics.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

LATROYS
316 20th Street South, 205-322-8338.

CHARLOTTE, NC

300 STONEWALL
300 E. Stonewall (at S. Blvd.), 704-347-4200

CLUB MYXX
3110 S. Tryon Street, 704-525-5001. Blackest Fri. & Sat.

THE MASQUERADE
3018 The Plaza (at 35th), 704-344-1770

SCORPIO'S LOUNGE 2301 Freedom Dr., 704-373-9124

VINTAGE 401 Plaza Rd., 704-536-7566

CHICAGO, IL

GENTRY ON HALSTED
3320 N. Halsted St., 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

THE RAILS
1675 N. Elston Ave., 708-802-1705. Black Friday Nights

THE CONVENT 1529 W. Armitage

COLUMBIA, SC

CANDY SHOP 1903 Two Notch Road

DALLAS, TX

METRO 2204 Elm St., 214-742-2101.

DETROIT, MI

OFF BROADWAY EAST NIGHT CLUB
12215 Harper Ave., 313-521-0920

REGINES'S OFF THE PARK
711 East McNichols, 313-865-4747

DURHAM, NC

J&L's 2627 Hillsboro Road, Durham, 919-286-5032

POWER COMPANY
315 W. Main Street, Durham, 919-683-1151 Blackest - Sat.

LEGENDS
330 W. Hargett Street, Raleigh, 919-831-8888 — Fri. & Sat.

HOUSTON, TX

INCOGNITO- THE CLUB
2524 McKinney St., 713-237-9431. Fri, Sat & Mon. Black

RASCALS THE NIGHTCLUB
1318 Westheimer, 713-942-CLUB. Mostly Black Thursdays - Sundays from 10PM.

JACKSON, MS

CLUB CITY LIGHTS
200 N. Mills St., Downtown, 601-353-0059. Where the stars come out to party.

JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave., 904-353-6316. Mixed Crowd.

MEMPHIS, TN

N-COGNITO 338 S. Front St., 901-523-0599.

MONTGOMERY, AL

FAT BOY'S FOLLIES 215 North Court Street. 334-269-6050

MIAMI/FT. LAUD., FL

AT THUNDER ALLEY 3025 NE 188th Street, Miami
1-877-Grove-4. Purple Haze on Saturdays. Miami's #1 Spot with sexy male and female exotic dancers.

CLUB 21 / COLISEUM
2520 South Miami Road, Ft. Lauderdale 1-877-Grove-4 Spinning The Phatest Hip Hop, House & Reggae on Thursdays.

COPA NIGHTCLUB
2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 954-463-1507. Blackest on Sunday.

CASABLANCA
Hallendale Beach - Off I-95 954-454-8400. Thurday Night all Black, Male Dancers

SUGAR'S
17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday

WATERFRONT
36th Street near Airport., Miami, 305-635-5696. Blackest on Tuesdays

NASHVILLE, TN

THE CONNECTION
901 Cowan St., 615-742-1166 Blackest on Thursdays

NEW ORLEANS, LA

WOLFENDALE'S
834 N. Rampart, 504-596-2236

NEW YORK, NY

CLUB HOUSE
215 W. 28th St. House, Hip-Hop. Black on Wednesdays.

ESCUELITA
301 West 39th St. (Corner of 8th Ave.) 212-631-0588. Black & Latin on Thursdays & Fridays

THE WAREHOUSE
141 E. 140th St., Bronx, 718-992-5974. Blackest on Saturdays

OAKLAND, CA

RIM SHOT
120 11th St., 510-444-2266. Black on Sat., Sun., & Wednesdays.

ORLANDO / TAMPA, FL

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road, Orlando 407-228-8226. Blackest on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and Fridays & Saturdays.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

RICHMOND, VA

CLUB COLOURS
536 N. Harrison St., 804-599-9143 Richmond's African-American Club of True Diversity.

TALLAHASSEE, FL

CLUB PARK AVENUE
115 E. Park Ave., 850-599-9143

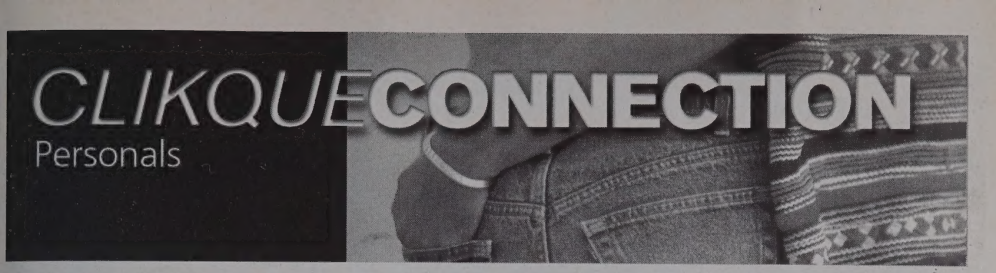
BROTHERS
926 West Tharpe Street, 850-386-2399. Black Nights-Fridays & Saturdays.

WASHINGTON, DC

BACHELOR'S MILL
1104 8th St. S.E., 202-544-1931.Black Men Dancing Thursday thru Saturday.

CLUB DIVERSITE
1526 14th St. N.W., 202-387-2338.

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St. N.E., 202-529-0626. Women on Fridays & Men on Saturdays.



MEN: CALL 1-800-546-MENN FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL

Georgia

FUN THAT'S IT African-American Male, enjoys sports, movies, hanging out. Seeking Male to have fun with. #14094

BIG GUY Kevin is a 33-year-old African-American Male, honest. Seeking cool, down-to-earth, honest, masculine Male, for friendship. (Atlanta) #15633

DAVID ON THE LINE GBM, 5'11", medium build, nice lips, attractive, bottom seeking H/BM, for casual dating and sharing good times. We can kick it if we are right for each other. (Atlanta) #14958

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP POSSIBLE I am for real. GBM, 28, very attractive looking for a possible partner and long-term relationship. If you are serious and are commitment-minded let's see if we are right for each other. No fats or femmes. (Atlanta) #14285

MATURE WELL-TOOLED Mature very-pretty TV pre-op TS seeking loving, versatile oral top who can help me be a real Woman. You will be pleased. (Savannah) #14299

NO STRINGS ATTACHMENT GWM, 23, seeking GM, under 25, race is open, for sexual good times. Does this sound good to you? If so drop me a message. (Atlanta) #14757

LOW FADE GBM Rick is a GBM, 23, dark skin, 5'10", 155 lbs, very masculine, very professional seeking a buddy who deisres a new friend. Our relationship would be purely platonic. I am in a committed relationship and all that is wanted is a new friend to share some fun times together. #10053

BROTHER WANTS TO CHILL SBM, 5'9", 148 lbs, 24, discreet, bottom is seeking for a friend, Brother, top who wants more than a sexual relaltionship. We can have some great times together, let's try to connect. (College Park) #14401

Illinois

35-YEAR-OLD BIWM seeking Male for sexual experiences only. #17579

WRITER 27-year-old BM, 5'8", 179 lbs., enjoys having fun, hanging out, dancing, writing, movies, music. Seeking Male with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) #17383

MICHAEL J. FOX TYPE WANTED Joe is a 46-year-old Male, brown/brown, goatee, moderately hairy, enjoys movies, music, dancing, dining out, quiet evenings. Seeking boyish Michael J. Fox type Male, 40-50, must be down-to-earth, stable, monogamous, n/s. (Chicago) #15939

NEW TO CHICAGO Carlos is a HM, 5'11", black/green. Seeking a new friend to show him around the city. (Chicago) #15664

GIMME A CALL James is a 25-year-old GBM, versatile, open, good-humored, enjoys bowling, cooking, dancing, good sex, parties. Seeking GBM for friendship, possible relationship. (Chicago) #15356

IS THIS YOU? 18-year-old Male, 5'11", 155 lbs., black/brown, enjoys music, intelligent conversation, having fun. Seeking Male with similar interests. (Chicago) #15217

SINCERE, DOWN-TO-EARTH, HONEST GBM, 38, enjoys bowling, walking, music, movies seeking similar Male who has similar likes. Let's try to connect and see where it goes. (Chicago) #14646

LIKES ORDER IN LIFE John is a GWM, casual, laidback, cool Guy, not into the bar scene. ISO counterpart who would like to find out more about me, please give me a call. (Chicago) #13286

Michigan

ROMANCE African-American Male, 6'3", healthy HIV+, employed, enjoys reading, music, people, movies. Seeking B/WM, light smoker, social drinker, to show him the romantic side of life. (Detroit) #17639

WESTERN SUBURBS CHICAGO Big bear Larry, 6'3", 260 lbs, very hairy, seeking other bears or cubs for cuddling. If you fit this bill give me a call and see where it goes. #10684

WHAT'S UP FELLAS Attractive GBM, 18, 6'1", 220 lbs, 44" chest, intelligent, mature, employed ISO GBM, 25-45, who enjoys the finer things in life. If this sounds like you give me a call, you will be pleased. (Detroit) #14498

New York

LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER GWM, 42, very handsome, muscular ISO counterpart who is interested in a new friend. Many possibilities exist for a great friendship. (NYC) #14845

HOT TIME IN BIG APPLE GWM, 6'2", 185 lbs, black/brown, 8" enjoys all sports, seeking GM, age and race open, for threesome, foursome or whatsome. Give me a call. (New York City) _14810

Tennessee

NEW TO MEMPHIS Chad is 6'1", 180 lbs., blonde/blue. Seeking Male for fun times. (Memphis) #17485

HOT BOY Ex-model GBM, 5'11", brown skin, seeking brother that good times can be shared with. I am nice to be around and you will have a good time. Give me a holler. (Memphis) #14729

MATURE, STOCKY, SOLID GBM, 5'9", 285 lbs, dark skin, open-minded, very loving seeking counterpart that is willing to try a new experience that could develop into a solid relationship. All serious inquiries will be answered. Willing to relocate. #15818

Texas

KEEP IT ON THE DL Dallas is a 26-year-old BM, 6'0", 195 lbs., medium build, medium complexion, low hair-cut, mustache, very attractive, bottom, enjoys movies, bowling, quiet times. Seeking gentle, masculine, discreet, aggressive top Male, with similar interests. (Dallas) #15022

VERY ATTRACTIVE BOTTOM Are you a hot Boy? GBM, 21, intelligent, very attractive, 5'8", 140 lbs, seeking hot, horny BM, bottom. Let's do it. (Dallas) #14929

WILLIAM, 24, MEDIUM build, blonde is seeking a friend to have some new experiences with. If you are dependable, fun-loving, honest and enjoy good times then I am the Man for you. (Texas) #14787

STRICTLY A TOP John, 5'8", 170 lbs, light brown skin, 35, SBM, top, very outgoing, fun to be around enjoys going out, movies, clubs ISO counterpart who knows how to take care of his Man. If this sound good to you, give me a holler. (Dallas) #14417

Virginia

CONSIDERED ATTRACTIVE 28-yeaer-old GWM, 6'0", 170 lbs., black/hazel, 32" waist, very attractive. Seeking straight-acting/appearing Male. #17546

FIRST TIME Attractive WM, 6'0", 190 lbs, curious. Seeking an aggressive, good-looking, slim, uncut Male, for first time experience. (Chesterfield) #15741

WOMEN: CALL 1-800-546-MEET FOR YOUR FREE PERSONAL

Florida

BI-CURIOUS, MARRIED FEMALE Bi-curious, Married Female seeking an intelligent, educated, open-minded, soft, pretty, discreet, sexy, disease/drug-free, bi-curious Female, for safe fun. (Miami) #16906

Georgia

VERY, VERY ROMANTIC 32-year-old WF, 5'7", 140 lbs., brown/hazel, very romantic, enjoys the outdoors, long walks, movies, dancing, sports, music, cooking, candle light dinners, wine, fireplaces. Seeking Female with similar interests, for possible relationship. (Homerville) #17537

WHERE ARE YOU? 22-year-old Female, 5'2", 125 lbs. Seeking Female 25-32, medium to thick build, no children. _15416

Michigan

TOMBOYISH FEMALE Very attractive, 29-year-old GBF, 5'7", 130 lbs., light complexion, n/s, n/drinker, enjoys bowling, playing pool, shopping, theater, dining out. Seeking feminine, SF 24-32, , no taller than 5'5", no heavier than 165 lbs., no more than one child, very independent, n/s, for friendship, possible relationship. (Detroit) #17609

VARIETY OF COLORS 32-year-old African-American PF. Seeking an erotic, n/s, n/drinker, passionate, passive, Female who is a good lover, with a variety of colors, for erotic fun and passion. #15349

THICK AND WANTS FRIEND BF, 21, 5'2", 150 lbs, seeking friend who wants a new Gal pal in her life. Let's see if we can make it work. (Detroit) #17005

COULD IT BE YOU? GBF, 36-ish, seeking a Lesbian friend. If we are right for each other a promising future is ahead for us. No Bi's. Please give me a call. (Detriot) _17085

FUN-LOVING FEMALE, early-20s, sincere, honest. Seeking Female, for friendship. (Detroit) #16698

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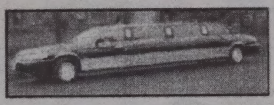
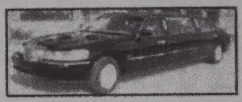

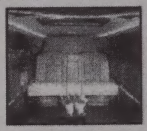

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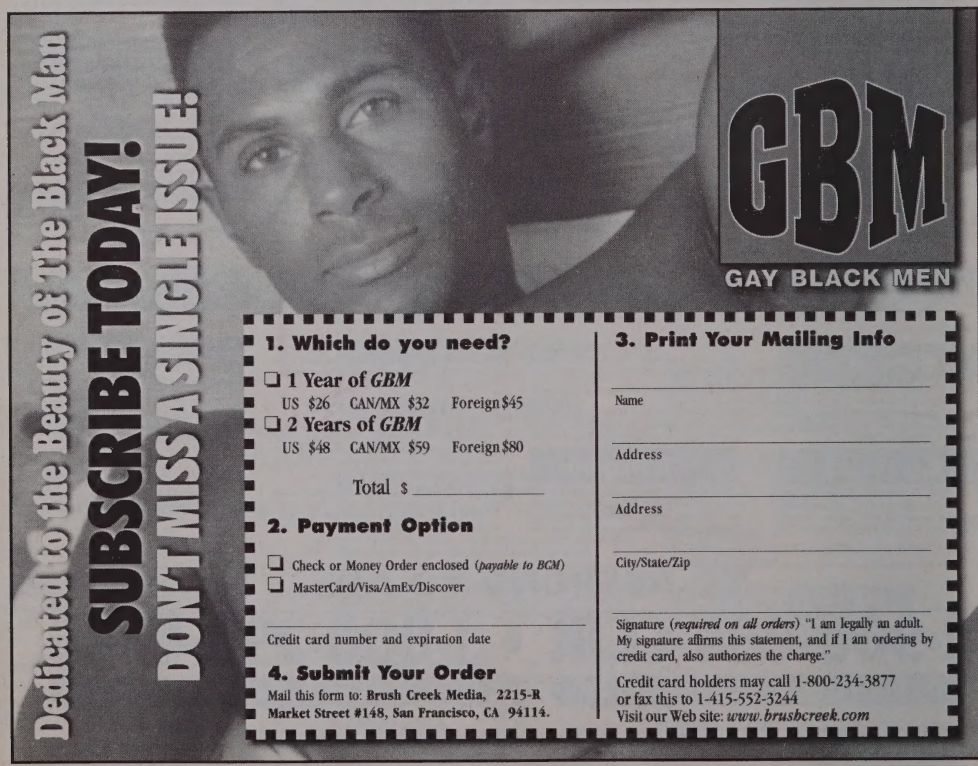

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&R Productions Presents

An International Affair

Sunday, March 26 & Monday, March 27

Mr. Gay
International

Miss Gay
International

Miss Gay
International Plus

CATEGORIES:

Int'l Costume
(no props or backup people for this category)

Sportswear
(non-seasonal, anything from swimwear to fur acceptable)

Talent (5 minutes max.)

Evening Gown & Formal Wear

Miss Prizes: $1,000
1st-4th RUs $700, $400, $300, $200

Mr. Prizes: $1,000
1st-4th RUs $500, $300, $200, $100

Miss Plus Prizes: $1,000
1st-4th RUs $500, $300, $200, $100

- All Categories Are Judged 1-25 pts.
- Even numbers compete on 26th & Odd on the 27th
- Presentation will be on Final Night
- Mandatory Rehersal, 2PM day of event
- $150 Entry Fee

Pageant @

The Riviera

1055 Peachtree St.,
Atlanta, Georgia.
$25.00 Guest Admission-Both Nights
(Alcohol & food will be served)
Call **404-284-2395** For More Info.

Over $6,000 in Cash & Prizes

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Guess Who???*

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Now would it?*

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March 12, @ 10:30PM

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Miss Georgia Continental

Pageant 2000

Special Guest:

Tommie Ross

Miss Continental 1999

Also Featuring:

Monica Munro

Miss Continental 1993

Shawnna Brooks

Miss National 1999

Nicole Luv Dupree

Miss Black Universe 1999

Raquel Lord

Former Georgia Continental

Emceed By:

Tina Devore

with Hostess

Mia Landon

Categories

Interview • Swimwear • Talent

Evening Gown • Q&A

$2,000 in Cash & Prizes

Entry Fee $100 before April 1st. $125 thereafter

For pageant information contact

Jack Howard @ 770-939-2580

The Riviera

April 18th, 2000

9:00PM Sharp (Doors Open @ 8:00PM)

$10.00 Admission At The Door

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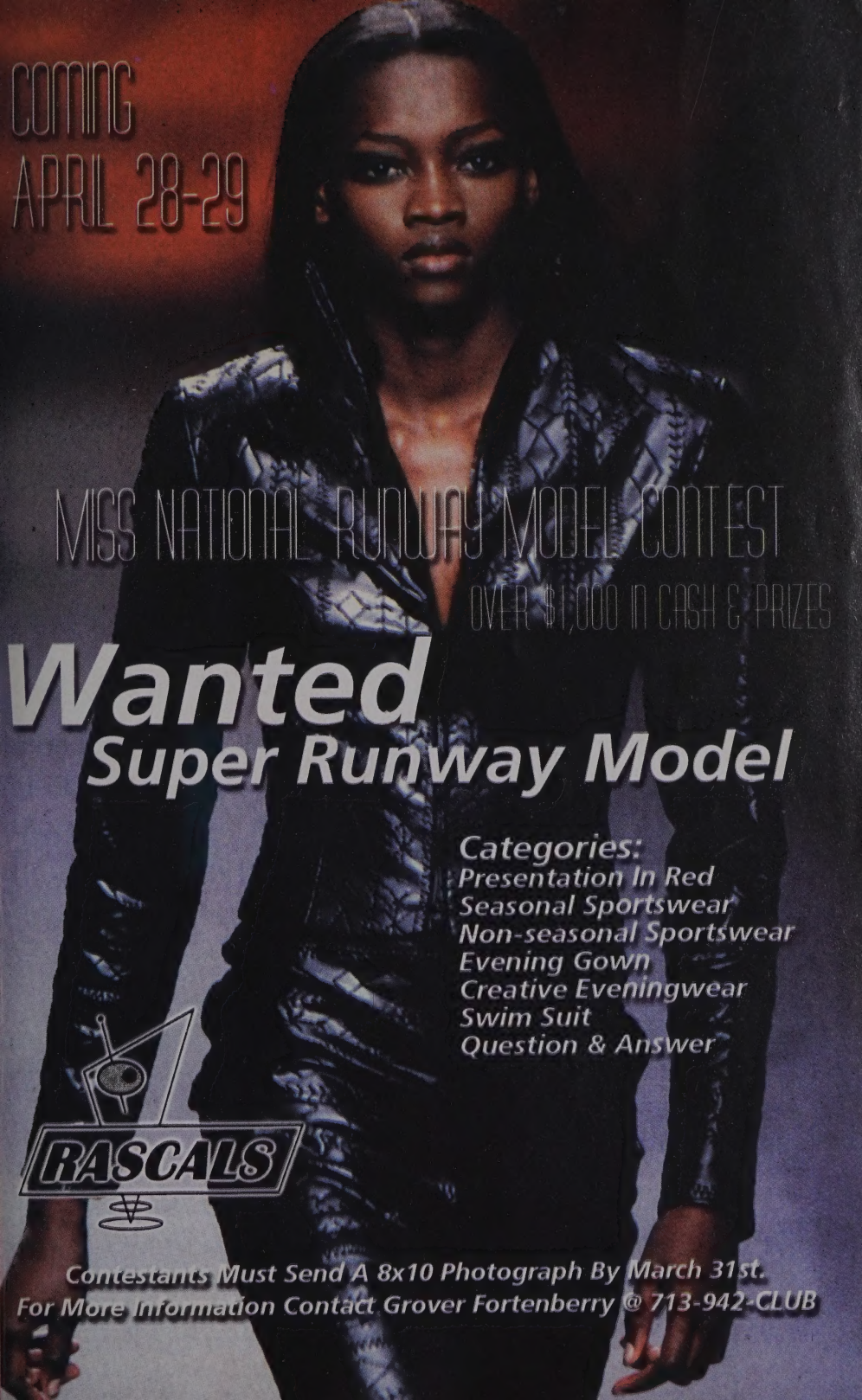
N'Cognito Presents...
Mr. & Miss N-Cognito 2000
SUNDAY 9TH, APRIL, 2000 @ 11PM
Over $3000 in Cash & Prizes To Be Awarded
Categories
Presentation: Creative Country
Sportswear (Non-Seasonal)
Evening Gown / Formal Wear
Talent - 7 Minutes Maximum)
Top 5 Question & Answer
$125 Entry Fee (Cash Only)
Payable @ Registration.
Sunday 9th April @ 3PM
Club N'Cognito
338 South Front Street
Memphis, TN.
APRIL 16TH
Miss N-Cognito
AT-LARGE
CATEGORIES
Presentation: Creative Country
Sportswear
Evening Gown /
Formal Wear
Talent
Top 5 Q&A
$125 Entry Fee
Over $1000
in Cash & Prizes
For More Information Contact Alicia Kelley
901-521-6922 or 901-345-3754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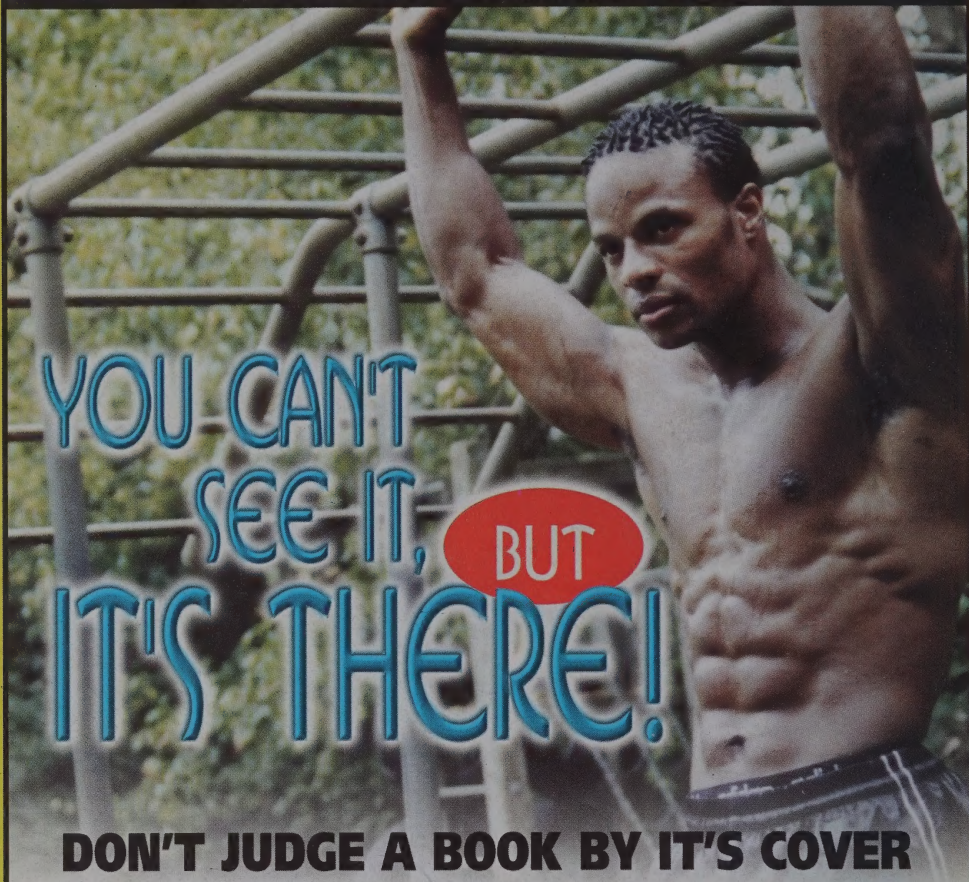
APRIL 28-29
MISS NATIONAL RUNWAY MODEL CONTEST
OVER $1,000 IN CASH & PRIZES
Wanted
Super Runway Model
Categories:
Presentation In Red
Seasonal Sportswear
Non-seasonal Sportswear
Evening Gown
Creative Eveningwear
Swim Suit
Question & Answer
RASCALS
Contestants Must Send A 8x10 Photograph By March 31st.
For More Information Contact Grover Fortenberry @ 713-942-CLUB

Renaissance III is a Dallas based organization serving African Americans in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Model Represented Here Is Being Used For Illustration Only. His HIV status is not known

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

HIV Comes in various packages. There are white ones, black ones, big ones, small ones, short ones, tall ones, sexy ones, and not so sexy ones. You can't identify an HIV infected person by just looking at them. Therefore, always use a Latex Condom and a waterbased lubricant when intimate with that special person. When used properly, latex condoms are effective against HIV, STDs and Pregnancies

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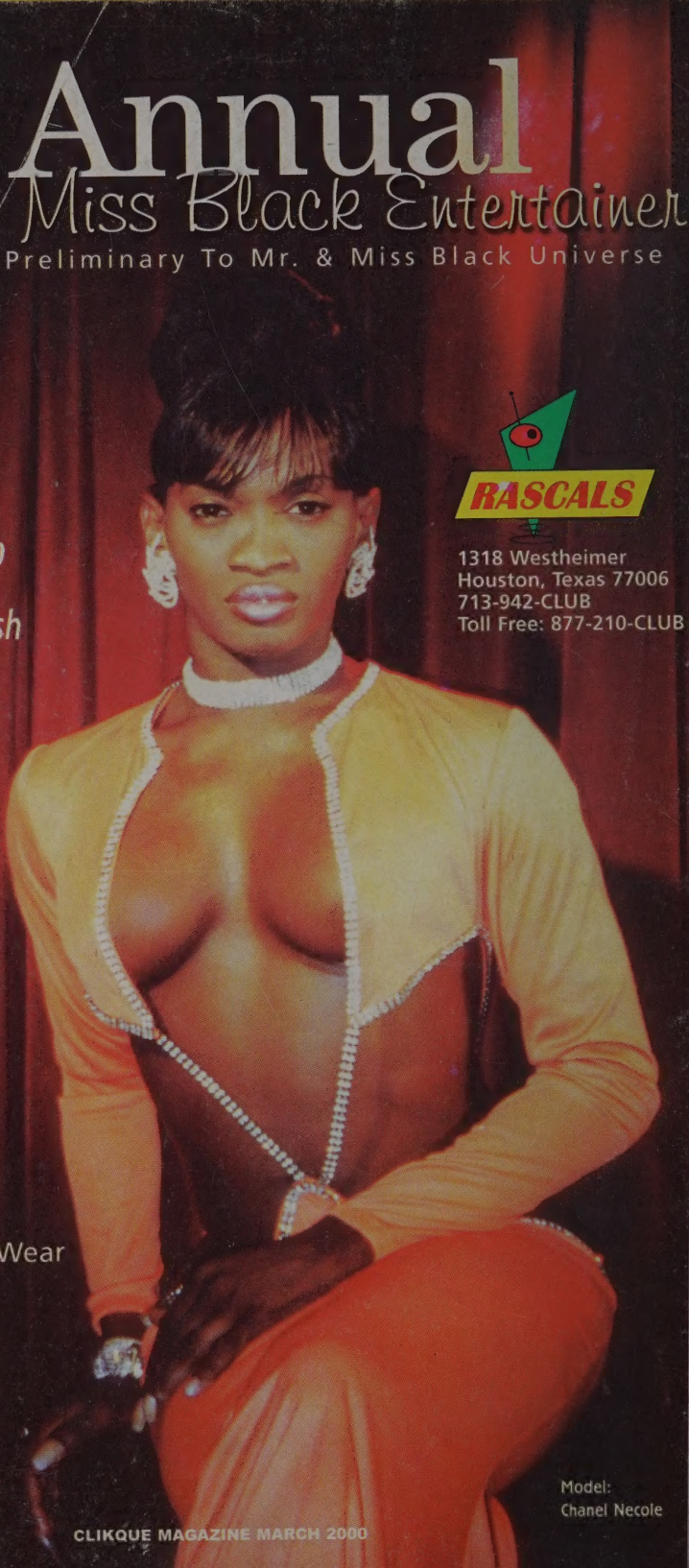

Categories:
Presentation
(White Only)
Sportswear
Formal / Evening Wear
Talent
On Stage Q & A

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Model:
Chanel Necole